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Israel

Arab Strike, Disturbances—The Arab sector in Israel expressed solidarity with the residents of the territories by proclaiming a 1-day general strike on 21 December, Jerusalem radio reported. The decision to call the strike was made by leaders of the Israeli Arab community in the wake of further riots in the Gaza Strip 18 December during which two people were killed and seven injured, according to the radio. Disturbances erupted anew in the West Bank and East Jerusalem 19 December, the radio reported, and 3 policemen were injured and 35 people were arrested in East Jerusalem, where young rioters set fire to banks and to a Jewish restaurant. Noting that the current wave of rioting was triggered by a road accident in which eight Gaza Strip Arabs were killed or wounded, the radio disclosed that an investigation has found the accident was caused by the recklessness of an Israeli truck driver, who will soon be tried on charges of manslaughter due to negligence.

On the political level, the Cabinet issued a 20 December statement expressing its united support for the actions of the security forces and contending that Israel is operating "in a more restrained way than any other administration in the world faced with similar circumstances," IDF radio reported. The struggle against terrorism and riots should not be mixed up with the political process, the Cabinet said, adding that "contact with Egypt in particular will be maintained" as part of Israel's efforts to explain its view of the current situation.

The Israeli ambassador in Cairo was summoned to the Egyptian Foreign Ministry the same day to hear the latter's protest over the Israeli authorities' "repressive and barbaric actions" against Palestinians in the Gaza Strip, Cairo radio revealed. The ambassador was told that the continuation of these practices could threaten the Middle East peace process.

The PLO Executive Committee expressed support for the 21 December general strike in a statement broadcast by Baghdad Voice of PLO radio, urging Palestinians to adopt "popular action, sit-ins, and all forms of expression to support the uprising."

Response to Libyan Claim—In the wake of Libya's claim that Israeli planes overflew Libyan airspace 16 December, the IDF spokesman said he knew nothing of any such flight, Jerusalem radio reported.

Lebanon

Threat to Hostages—The "Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine" (IJLP) issued a communique 18 December warning of its intention to use "extremely negative methods" against the "American spies of Mossad" it is holding if Israel continues its "criminal policy of repression" in Gaza and the West Bank, AFP reported. The IJLP communique was accompanied by a photograph of U.S. hostage Robert Polhill.

Fighting in South—The clandestine Radio Free Lebanon reported that the IDF and SLA engaged in intensive clashes with Muslim fundamentalists in the Al-Nabatiyah area 21 December, adding that an Israeli air strike in the area wounded seven people. The SLA's Voice of Hope radio said its soldiers repulsed an attack by "hundreds of terrorists" at 'Arab Salim, north of Al-Nabatiyah, killing five attackers.

Shooting of Arab League Official

The Arab League's charge d'affaires in Athens was rushed to a hospital in critical condition after being shot by unidentified gunmen, Athens radio reported. The charge is of Iraqi nationality, AFP noted.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Saudi Crown Prince's Tour—Prince 'Abdallah was received in Baghdad by Iraqi President Saddam Husayn 19 December, Voice of the Masses reported, noting that their talks focused on "the strong fraternal" bilateral relations and the Arab situation. The general Arab situation and affairs in the Gulf were discussed during the crown prince's meeting with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad in Damascus the following day, Damascus television noted. Damascus radio reported on an interview with Saudi reporters by Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, who responded to questions about Syrian policy on Egypt by stressing that the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty remains a barrier which Syria cannot ignore.

Jordanian Diplomacy—Jordanian Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i made a "brief working visit" to Damascus during which he delivered a message from King Husayn to President al-Asad, Amman radio reported 18 December, noting that the message regarded "continuing coordination and consultation" on regional developments and the Amman summit resolutions.

Syrian-Omani Ties Upgraded—During a 20 December meeting between President al-Asad and a delegation headed by Yusuf Ibn 'Alawi, Omani minister of state for foreign affairs, it was decided to exchange diplomatic representatives on the ambassadorial level, Damascus radio reported.

Egypt

Libyan Accusations Denied—An "official military spokesman" termed "untrue, fabricated, and misleading" press reports that the U.S. 6th Fleet carried out military exercises at 'Adibiyah Port in Suez, MENA reported 19 December, citing a statement released to

AL-AHRAM. The statement also "refuted" a JANA charge that Israeli aircraft reconnoitering Libya had recently been detected, describing the allegation as a "mere illusion."

Demurral on Sudanese Request—"Informed Egyptian sources" told the Al-Shariqah-based newspaper AL-KHALIJ that the Egyptian Government demurred on a Sudanese request to reactivate the joint defense pact in light of the recent problems in southern Sudan, WAKH reported. Egypt stressed in its reply the internal nature of the conflict with the SPLA and offered to ask Ethiopia not to interfere, the sources disclosed.

Jordanian Special Envoy—President Husni Mubarak received the chief of the Jordanian Royal Court who conveyed a message from King Husayn, MENA reported 19 December. The Jordanian official told journalists that the message, which was delivered prior to the Husayn's departure for Moscow, falls within the framework of continuing bilateral consultations and is also relevant to the king's efforts to promote Arab unity, the agency reported. It also deals with the incidents in the West Bank and Gaza, Amman radio added.

Relations With USSR—RSFSR Foreign Minister Vladimir Vinogradov, head of the Soviet-Egyptian Friendship Society, highlighted the "closeness of views" on the Gulf war as well as on other issues of bilateral and international relations, MENA reported 20 December. The Soviet official was interviewed following "cordial" talks with President Mubarak.

Explosion in Alexandria—Parts of western Alexandria were evacuated after an explosion at a Navy munitions warehouse 21 December, AFP reported, adding that nearly 1,000 persons were overcome by fumes.

Libya

Protest to U.S.—The Belgian ambassador was summoned to receive a protest regarding "false U.S. accusations" on Libya's alleged involvement in world terrorism, JANA reported 20 December. The protest asserted that Libya "has always been the victim of U.S. hegemony and its arrogant policy."

Accusation Against Egypt—A JANA political commentary carried by Tripoli television 20 December accused the Egyptian Government of advocating "direct military aggression" against Libya and charged that the call was timed to "divert" the Egyptian people's attention from problems caused by "Egypt's total surrender to the enemy." The journalistic counterattack came in response to an AKHBAR AL-YAWN editorial which, according to MENA, advised that vigilance be increased against "schemes" that Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi "masterminds for the destabilization of the security of Egypt."

Response to Mission Closure—The Foreign Liaison Bureau expressed "regret" that the Kenyan Goverment decided to close the Libyan mission in Nairobi and asserted that "forces hostile to both countries' interests" had a role in Kenya's reaching a decision which does not "lean on correct bases," JANA reported.

Soviet Air Defense Delegation—Ivan Tretyak, USSR deputy defense minister and commander of the Soviet Air Defense Forces, arrived in Tripoli 20 December at the head of a delegation, JANA reported.

Relations With Algeria—During its fourth session 19-20 December, the Libyan-Algerian Executive Committee discussed means for furthering the joint aim of "integration and unity," according to a "press statement" carried by Tripoli television. The statement noted that agreements were signed in the areas of culture, tourism, labor, and social security. In a speech broadcast by Tripoli radio, Al-Qadhdhafi praised the progress toward bilateral union for a better future, and he counseled that "an unhurried move" will undermine those who "libel" the effort.

Sudan

Upon returning to Khartoum, Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi told journalists that his discussions with Jordanian and Libyan officials dealt with bilateral security as well as current developments in the Arab arena, SUNA reported 20 December, adding that Al-Mahdi and Libyan leader Al-Qadhdhafi reiterated their desire for regional peace and rejected foreign interference in the internal affairs of others. Sudan and Libya have "identical" viewpoints and "strong, well-established Islamic and pan-Arab bonds," Al-Mahdi declared in remarks carried by JANA. According to a statement issued by the Jordanian foreign minister and broadcast by Amman radio 18 December, King Husayn told the visiting Sudanese premier that Jordan views Sudanese security within the context of overall Arab security; therefore, aggression against Sudan is an attack on the whole Arab nation. The king also promised to "render every possible assistance" according to Jordan's capabilities, the statement declared. In remarks cited by AL-DUSTUR 18 December, Al-Mahdi declared that Sudan is asking all its friends to supply the Armed Forces with military equipment so that Sudan may regain its "occupied territory."

Foreign Minister Ma'mun Sanadah announced that Ethiopia sent a "positive reply" on the proposal for a meeting of a joint committee to discuss the dispute between the two countries, SUNA noted.

Regarding the internal conflict, Omdurman radio reported 20 December that the Armed Forces have "advanced with firm steps" to the outskirts of Kurmuk, achieving "bright victories" and inflicting "heavy losses" on the rebels. An official government spokesman had previously declared that the Armed Forces are "in control of the security situation in all southern regions," the

radio reported, and he added that the soldiers are "totally prepared" to deal with "prospects of escalation." The minister of state for defense acknowledged to MENA 20 December that one of the four Mig-23's given by Libya suffered a malfunction and crashed 16 December. The clandestine SPLA radio had previously claimed that a similar plane crashed 7 December after having been hit over Kurmuk.

Maghreb Affairs

Tripartite Meeting—During a 20 December meeting in Algiers, the foreign ministers of Algeria, Mauritania, and Tunisia positively assessed the work accomplished within the framework of the treaty of fraternity and concord, and they discussed steps toward economic intergration in the Maghreb, Algiers radio reported.

Algerian-Tunisian Cooperation—Following "brotherly and constructive" talks on regional and bilateral relations, Algerian Foreign Minister Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi and his Tunisian counterpart, Mahmoud Mestiri, signed the minutes of the joint cooperation committee, Algiers radio reported 19 December, adding that the two ministers expressed satisfaction over the "considerable achievements" in pursuit of Maghreb unity.

Tunisia—President Zine el Abidine Ben Ali issued a decree entrusting Defense Minister Slaheddine Baly with the duties of Justice Minister Mohamed Salah 'Ayyar who is in ill health, Tunis radio reported 19 December.

Iran-Iraq War

Military Situation—Iraq announced that its IV Army Corps "almost totally annihilated" two Iranian brigades which launched an attack in the Zubaydah area the night of 19 December. In a communique broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio, the Iraqi command stated that two Iraqi formations engaged the Iranians, inflicting heavy losses and forcing the "small number" of survivors to flee. However, IRNA claimed that "all attacking forces returned safely to bases" after conducting "blitz operations" in the Zubaydah region that night. A military source cited by the agency dismissed Iraq's claim to have destroyed two Iranian brigades and stressed that brigades are never used for such raids. An Iranian military communique asserted that Iranian forces inflicted over 1,500 casualties in the operation, according to IRNA.

In the Gulf, Iranian gunboats attacked a Danish supertanker off Abu Musa Island 19 December, Radio Monte Carlo reported. The attack by "speedboats" was mentioned by Tehran radio, which cited reports that the Danish vessel was loaded with oil.

Iranian Diplomacy—An Iranian envoy conveyed messages from President 'Ali Khamene'i to the amirs of Qatar and Bahrain 19 December, according to QNA and WAKH reports. IRNA's account of the envoy's meeting with the Bahraini ruler noted the Iranian's reference to the "serious danger of any U.S. base in the region."

In Tehran, Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati told Soviet special envoy Yuriy Alekseyev 20 December that any "one-sided" position adopted by the United Nations will not only have "no effect," but will also lead to "intensification of tension," Tehran radio reported. The Soviet visitor reportedly expressed his country's eagerness to expand relations with Iran.

Iran

Grand Ayatollah Hoseyn 'Ali Montazeri told university teachers that they should not expect all their students to be Hezbollahis, Tehran radio reported. Speaking at an 18 December meeting in Qom, the "deputy leader" added that "individuals are not the same, and we should not expect everyone to follow the same line, including our line."

Afghanistan

Khowst Offensive—A "major military operation" has been launched to dislodge the some 9,000 "armed bandits" in Khowst District which "has practically been held hostage by the counterrevolution," Moscow television reported 19 December, adding that the operation's goals include "political" objectives. The Afghan chief of general staff asserted that "under strong pressure from Pakistan and Western allies," the rebels have resisted efforts to lift the "blockade of Khowst" by peaceful means.

Pakistani Charges Denied—In a Foreign Ministry statement carried by Kabul radio 19 December, the Afghan Government termed "baseless and untrue" Pakistani charges that Afghan forces violated the border by shelling or bombing various localities in 10 separate instances 28 October through 10 December.

UAE-PDRY, YAR

UAE President Shaykh Zayid ibn Sultan al Nuhayyan has appealed to PDRY Chairman Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas to "reconsider" the verdicts recently handed down on those persons convicted of involvement in the uprising of 13 January 1986, WAKH reported 19 December. The message, which was delivered by a special UAE envoy, called on Al-'Attas to grant clemency "to preserve the feeling of amity, mercy, and tolerance among brothers in the PDRY," the agency added. Aden radio merely reported that the UAE envoy delivered a message on bilateral relations. The previous day Aden radio noted that a delegation from the Arab Lawyers Union had visited the prisoners and found that the 16 inmates who received the death sentence as well as the other convicts in custody were "well-treated," Aden radio reported.

The UAE president and his YAR counterpart, 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, exchanged views in Abu Dhabi and explored ways to enhance cooperation, Sanaa radio reported 20 December.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Comments on West Bank, Gaza Uprising

NC191708 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1610 GMT 19 Dec 87

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Dec (MENA)—Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, said that 51 people have been killed by Israeli forces and 5,000 others detained since the popular uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza began. Speaking to MENA's correspondent in Baghdad, 'Arafat asserted that what is happening in the occupied Arab territories is a flagrant violation of the 1949 Geneva agreement on the treatment of civilians by occupying troops in wartime.

'Arafat stated: I call on President Husni Mubarak and our older sister Egypt to carry out their political, moral, national, and legal duties toward our Palestinian people and toward the occupied Palestinian Arab land.

'Arafat said that resistance to the occupation is continuing despite the fact that Israel is using military helicopters, armored vehicles, gas canisters, and even the internationally-banned mustard gas to quell the uprising.

The Palestinian leader reported that Israeli troops are still carrying out the most brutal forms of oppression and aggression against our kinfolk in the West Bank and Gaza. He added: I hold the U.S. Administration fully responsible for the crimes which are being committed by the occupying Israeli forces. These troops are using U.S. weapons to kill our women and children. Reassured of the unconditional backing of the U.S. Administration, the Israelis are holding on to the occupied Arab territories and using an iron fist to tighten their grip on them.

'Arafat Urges UN Force in 'Occupied Territory'

JN211120 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1100 GMT 21 Dec 87

[Text] In an interview published today in the French newspaper LIBERATION, PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has called for the dispatch of an international force to the occupied Arab territory. 'Arafat says that it is necessary for the United Nations to adopt an extraordinary resolution to send a force to the occupied territory.

PLO Issues Statement on 'Giant Uprising'

JN182017 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1802 GMT 18 Dec 87

[Statement issued by the PLO; date and place not given]

[Text] The PLO Executive Committee held a joint meeting with the Higher Committee for Occupied Homeland Affairs this morning to continue discussing the current giant uprising of our people in the occupied territory—the uprising which has entered its 2d week. The conferees expressed great pride in the struggle being waged by the Palestinian masses in the cities, villages, and camps of Gaza, the West Bank, and Jerusalem. The conferees also expressed their appreciation for the militant united stand exhibited by our masses in the Galilee, the Galilee Triangle, and the Negev.

This heroic steadfastness continues in the face of the Zionist and racist fascism and the tools of repression, killing, and crime used against our Palestinian people. This continuation proves that the iron will of the people to resist and confront occupation cannot soften or retreat until we extract our national inalienable rights, particularly our right to repatriation, self-determination, and an independent state under the leadership of the PLO, the sole, legitimate representative.

Our great masses in the occupied homeland today express, through their historical uprising, through the blood of the hundreds of martyrs and wounded, through their bravery, through the vigor of our prisoners, and through the struggle of all Palestinians—men, women, youths, and children—their determination to defeat the occupation forces and to expel them from the homeland regardless of the dear sacrifice and high price.

The entire world today looks with high appreciation and respect at this second uprising of all our people in our occupied territory for the sake of freedom, dignity, and independence. This uprising affirms that all fascist Zionist crimes, terrorism, and repression cannot save the criminal occupation from its inevitable crisis and fate; that is, their defeat and removal from the sacred Palestinian land, the land of fathers and grandfathers.

The names of our cities, villages, and camps have attracted the attention of all those who love and defend freedom in our Arab homeland and the entire world. These names have become symbols and titles of bravery and heroism to the entire world. Fascist crimes are perpetrated today by the Zionist occupation forces against women and children and against our defenseless people. The hospitals and places of worship are stormed. The camps and peaceful houses are treated as a battlefield. Thousands are arrested and put into mass detention camps. Children, old men, and women are killed. Tanks, planes, and combat units attack camp streets and homes. Herds of settlers are sent to practice bloody terrorism against our people. All these are crimes perpetrated by Zionist forces. These crimes disclose to human conscience and world public opinion the reality of this racist occupation and its objectives to annihilate our people, expel them from their homeland, and destroy all aspects of their existence.

The Zionist rulers today appear before the world as the inheritors of Nazism and fascism. However, crimes and terrorism cannot defeat our people's determination and steadfastness. Such crimes and terrorism will increase the Zionists' impasse and isolation and expose the collusion of their protectors in the U.S. Administration who have always mourned in defense of human rights. The

Palestinian people are killed, tortured, and arrested. Their houses, hospitals, places of worship, and holy places are destroyed. Palestinian lands are seized. Palestinian water and food are stolen. Palestinian children are assassinated. While all this happens, those who claim to defend human rights do not even move to curb their tools and small agents, the Zionist rulers of Israel.

The powerful uprising has affirmed the strength and unity of all the factions of our people inside and outside occupied Palestine. It has also affirmed the people's rallying around the PLO and their strong rejection of all suspect calls and projects aimed at dominating our people, forging our people's will, and peddling the Zionist-U.S. plot to deprive them of their inalienable national rights. In their brave uprising, our people reject distributing role,s as well as any bribery for the so-called improvement of living, instead of ending the nightmare of the occupation and liberating the Al-Aqsa Mosque, from which the prophet descended and in which Christ was born.

By their brave uprising, our masses are defending the unity of all the Palestinian people inside and outside the homeland. They also defend the Palestinian people's unity of cause and rights and voice their adherence to every inch of their soil. They reject any attempt to divide the cause of the homeland, any encroachment on our established national rights, and adhere to the PLO's program for struggle to liberate the holy land. Our people also call for holding an international conference as urged by UN resolutions, the Arab summit, nonaligned countries, and socialist and friendly countries.

At these historical and fateful moments in our people's struggle, the PLO appeals to our Arab brothers—governments, parties, forces, institutions, and popular bodies—to increase their solidarity with and support for the uprising of our people. The pan-Arab responsibility and ties of brotherhood and solidarity are being shown today through support for our people by our brothers in our glorious Arab nation. This support asserts the unity of fate, struggle, and pan-Arab goals.

The PLO expresses its appreciation for the brotherly positions declared by many leaders, parties, and organizations. It also voices its pride in our nation's solidarity with and unity of position toward their brothers, the sons of the Palestinian people. The PLO also expresses its appreciation for the positions of friendly countries, forces, allies, all African countries, nonaligned countries, Islamic countries, socialist countries, friendly countries, and many friendly parties and forces. These groups hastened to announce their solidarity with the uprising of our people, their condemnation of the crimes of the Zionist occupiers, and their call for ending the Zionists' crimes against our people and terminating the nightmare of the Palestinian people's homeland.

Our people appreciate this support for their struggle against occupation. It encourages their struggle and reinforces their confidence in victory. The Security Council discussions express the depth and comprehensiveness of this support for our people's struggle, as well as the isolation, the disappointment, and the condemnation of the Zionist occupiers and their supporters. The PLO also voices appreciation for the positions of the democratic forces in Israel who voiced support for our people's uprising, condemned the crimes of the Zionist rulers and their fascist army, and called for ending the occupation of our homeland. The PLO calls on those who are concerned about just peace to take a responsible position required by these historic moments against the fascist military ruling clique whose hands are stained with the blood of our people and who ignore the facts of the age and the clear Palestinian reality.

O our glorious people inside and outside the occupied homeland. O you who continue steadfastness in Gaza, the West Bank, the Triangle, Galilee, and the Negev. O you who continue struggle in Lebanon's camps and in all areas of diaspora. Our people reiterate that the way of struggle and unity is the only way to victory, to regain their firm national rights, and to establish an independent state with Jerusalem as its capital. Your uprising in the occupied homeland enters human history because it expresses adherence to life, peace, freedom, honor, independence, the liberation of the homeland, and victory. Defenders of the Lebanon camps also support their brothers in the occupied homeland. They will retaliate for any Zionist aggression against southern Lebanon and the Palestinian camps side by side with the Lebanese national forces. They will stress with blood and martyrdom the people's unity, struggle, and steadfastness.

In light of this, the PLO Executive Committee has passed a series of resolutions and made arrangements to continue a large-scale movement in Arab and international arenas to provide all the requirements of steadfastness and resistance for our people in the occupied homeland. It has decided that the employees of the PLO and the revolution's institutions will donate a 7-day salary to the uprising. It also thanks President Saddam Husayn for his noble and brotherly initiative to support the families of the martyrs of the popular uprising and for calling on Palestinian and Arab masses to set up support committees. Glory to our people's struggle and righteous martyrs. Greetings to our imprisoned heroes. Victory for our great people's struggle. Revolution until victory.

'General Strike' Set in Galilee for 21 Dec

JN192120 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1737 GMT 19 Dec 87

['Appeal' issued by the PLO Executive Committee to the Palestinian people; date and place not given]

[Text] Our people's historic uprising has entered its 2d week. The Zionist occupiers are impotent before our people's steadfastness and determination to pursue their

struggle. All the great Palestinian people these days are giving their decisive word that the occupation of our holy territory will end and that we will restore our national rights to repatriattion, self-determination, and to an independent state with holy Jerusalem as its capital.

Our masses and their national institutions in the Galilee, the Triangle, and the Negev have said that they will stage a general strike on Monday, 21 December 1987, to express their cohesion with the uprising in the valiant Gaza and the struggler West Bank. We call on our Palestinian people everywhere and in all positions of struggle to consider next Monday a day of Palestinian steadfastness and of expressing cohesion with the powerful uprising in our occupied homeland. We also call on our people to express this cohesion and the unity of the people's struggle by all means and forms. We also call for cooperating with all fraternal Arab forces and all friendly international forces to make Monday a day of Palestinian steadfastness and heroism, a day in which voices everywhere should express support for the uprising. We call for forming committees to support our great people's uprising and to provide all means of steadfastness for the people's struggle. We also call for popular action, sit-ins, and all forms of expression to support the uprising by all means.

The day of steadfastness must be a message addressed by all the people, their brothers, and allies to the uprising in the occupied homeland. Victory is coming. O brothers, you will never be alone. All our people and our Arab brothers are with you. All the free men in the world support your great struggle.

[Signed] The PLO Executive Committee

PLO Donates Funds to West Bank, Gaza Citizens

NC201327 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1215 GMT 20 Dec 87

[Text] During a telephone call to the Voice of Lebanon at noon today, PLO information official Bassam Abu Sharif announced that the PLO decided this morning to donate funds equal to the weekly wages of its leaders, cadres, and fighters in support of the Palestinians in the occupied territories.

Bassam Abu Sharif further disclosed that violent clashes occurred between Israeli forces and Palestinians in Rafah [in the Gaza Strip] before these forces were withdrawn from the town. He added that the demonstrators had erected barricades in the streets of Jerusalem, burned three Israeli banks, a police station at the entrance to Al-'Azariyah, and an Israeli tourist office in Jabal al-Mukabbir [in Jerusalem]. According to Abu Sharif, there has been a total strike in most areas of the Gaza Strip and West Bank since this morning. Abu Sharif said that nine Palestinians were wounded in shooting incidents in these areas since this morning.

Palestinian sources in Beirut said that the clashes which broke out in Al-Fari'ah camp had resulted in deaths and injuries. They named the dead as Ibrahim 'Isa Mansur, Ahmad Muhammad Asad, Wa'il al-'Ayidi, and Ra'id Yusuf Khadir.

Algeria

Tunisian Foreign Minister Arrives for Talks

LD191416 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 19 Dec 87

[Excerpt] The eighth session of the Algerian-Tunisian Supreme Joint Committee for Cooperation will open in Algiers today. It will assess what was implemented within the framework of joint action. Mahmoud Mestiri, member of the Destourian Socialist Party Political Bureau and minister of foreign affairs arrived in Algiers to participate. He was received by Dr Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, member of the Political Bureau and foreign minister.

At the airport, Mr Mestiri gave a statement:

[Begin recording] I came to Algeria carrying a verbal message from President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali for his brother, President Chadli Bendjedid. It is well known that this visit comes within the framework of the eighth session of the Tunisian-Algerian Supreme Committee for Cooperation. We hope to achieve more results which will consolidate cooperation between Tunisia and Algeria in all fields, particularly the economic, industrial, and commercial fields. The visit will also be an opportunity for me to consult with my brother and friend, Dr Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, about our region's issues, as well as other matters of mutual interest to Tunisia and Algeria. We hope these days will form a new brick in the construction of the Greater Arab Maghreb for which we work. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Reportage on Meeting of 3 Foreign Ministers

LD200941 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 20 Dec 87

[Text] The foreign ministers of Algeria, Mauritania, and Tunisia are expected to hold a meeting in Algiers today to be devoted to assessing the work that has been done within the framework of the treaty of fraternity and concord.

For this purpose, Mauritanian Foreign Minister Mohamed Lemine Ould N'diayane has arrived in Algiers. Tunisian Foreign Minister Mahmoud Mestiri arrived in Algiers yesterday morning to chair, along with his Algerian counterpart, Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, the conclusion of the second session of the joint Tunisian-Algerian committee.

APS reported that the meeting of the Tunisian, Algerian, and Mauritanian foreign ministers in Algiers, held within the framework of the treaty of fraternity and concord, will be a meeting of political consultation and appraisal.

Consultations Held

LD201513 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 20 Dec 87

[Text] Consultations were held at the Foreign Ministry this morning between Algeria, Mauritania, and Tunisia, which are party to a treaty of fraternity and concord. The meeting began with a working session confined to Dr Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, member of the Political Bureau and minister of foreign affairs; Major Mohamed Lemine Ould N'diayane, CMSN member and minister of foreign affairs and cooperation in Mauritania; and Mahmoud Mestiri, member of the Political Bureau of the Destourian Socialist Party and foreign minister in Tunisia. After this working session, the meeting was extended to include the members of the three delegations.

Mohamed Taleb Ibrahimi and Mahmoud Mestiri yesterday signed the minutes of the conclusion of the work of the eighth grand joint Algerian-Tunisian committee on cooperation.

In Tripoli, all aspects of Algerian-Libyan cooperation and what has been achieved since June and the outlines of the diversified cooperation in the coming year were evaluated. This took place within the work of the fourth session of the Algerian-Libyan Executive Committee headed by Abdelhamid Bramhimi, member of the Political Bureau and prime minister on the Algerian side.

Bilateral meetings took place in Tripoli yesterday evening between the ministers accompanying Abdelhamid Brahimi and their counterparts in the General People's Committee in the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah.

Talks End

LD201842 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1800 GMT 20 Dec 87

[Text] There was a meeting this morning of the ministers of the three Maghreb countries which are signatories of a treaty of fraternity and concord. The foreign ministers of Algeria, Tunisia, and Mauritania expressed their satisfaction at the end of the meeting and confirmed the principle of opening up the treaty of fraternity to all Maghreb countries in conformity with its terms and its spirit as a framework for all Maghreb energies.

During the meeting Algeria, Tunisia, and Mauritania studied prospects for joint organizational and political action among the parties to the treaty and the development of joint industries, resources, and means with a view to preparing the Maghreb's economic integration.

The three ministers agreed to meet regularly and to act together on ways and means of strengthening Maghreb unity. They also decided that the next meeting will be in Nouakchott.

Cooperation Meeting Minutes Signed in Algiers

LD200236 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 19 Dec 87

[Excerpts] Here in the homeland the eighth session of the Algerian-Tunisian Greater Joint Committee for Cooperation was crowned by the signing this evening at the Foreign Ministry of the minutes of the meeting. It was signed on the Algerian side by Dr Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi, Politburo member and minister of foreign affairs, and on the Tunisian side by Mahmoud Mestiri, Politburo member of the Destourian Socialist Party and foreign minister. [passage omitted]

Before the beginning of the joint committee meeting, a political tete-a-tete was held today at the Foreign Ministry between Dr Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi and Mr Mahmoud Mestiri. This was followed by a working session of the delegations of both countries. During this meeting, held in a brotherly and constructive atmosphere, the two ministers assessed bilateral cooperation between the two countries, expressing their satisfaction with the considerable achievements that have been accomplished.

During this meeting, the two ministers exchanged information on the prevailing situation in the Greater Arab Maghreb, appreciating the efforts currently under way to spread the process of building unity in the Greater Arab Maghreb through the pursuit of consultative and gradual efforts. The two sides analyzed the current situation in the Arab world, particularly the escalation of the Palestinian people's resistance in the occupied territories, in addition to other issues concerning the African Continent.

Mr Mahmoud Mestiri was received today by Mohamed Cherif Messaadia, Politburo member and head of the Permanent Secretariat of the Central Committee. They reviewed the historical bonds between the two peoples and some aspects of bilateral relations and cooperation as part of the program of joint action between the two countries and two parties.

Mestiri Conveys Ben Ali Greetings to Bendjedid

LD202209 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1800 GMT 20 Dec 87

[Text] Following days of intensive Algerian-Tunisian talks in various fields, an important statement has sanctioned the meeting of the Algerian-Tunisian grand joint commission. Tunisian Foreign Minister Mestiri said: We are continuing, inside of limited commissions, the examination of certain technical questions. He said these commissions have also recorded progress in all fields.

At the end of the meetings, Mr Mahmoud Mestiri was received by President Chadli Bendjedid, to whom he conveyed the greetings of Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali. The Tunisian foreign minister said: We agreed to further promote the strengthening of fraternal and exemplary relations between Tunisia and Algeria in the near future.

Chad

Army Repels Islamic Legion Convoy in Goz Beida

AB200816 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 0530 GMT 20 Dec 87

[Communique No 100 issued by the FANT High Command in Ndjamena on 20 December]

[Text] On Saturday, 19 December 1987, at 1030 [0930 GMT], a convoy of the Islamic Legion coming from Sudan attempted to penetrate Chadian territory in the Goz Beida region. The valiant FANT, who are on around-the-clock surveillance at our borders, intercepted this Libyan column. After violent clashes, the enemy, put into disarray, returned to Sudan. Here is a partial accounting of the fighting: On the enemy side there were 23 dead and 7 prisoners of war; military equipment seized: 4 Toyota vehicles, as well as other vehicles and weapons. On the FANT side: no casualties.

While confronted with repeated violations of the cease-fire by Libya, the FANT, the guardians of Chad's territorial integrity, are, as usual, determined to counter any aggression, no matter from where it may come.

Libyan Air Force Overflies Bardai 17-19 Dec

AB192009 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1923 GMT 19 Dec 87

[Text] Libya continues its warlike policy against Chad. In fact, the Libyan Air Force, with its provocative maneuvers, has once again just violated the cease-fire established by the OAU for a peaceful solution to the Chad-Libya conflict. The town of Bardai was thus flown over on 17 December at 1900, on 18 December at 2030 and (?2100), and today, 19 December, at 0330.

Further Reportage on UDEAC Summit

Arrivals Noted

AB172307 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1845 GMT 17 Dec 87

[Excerpts] Ndjamena and its population gave a performance worthy of a great event in giving a most enthusiastic welcome to Chad's illustrious guests. In effect, two heads of state and a prime minister arrived in our capital today. They are Presidents Omar Bongo of Gabon, Obiang Nguema Mbasogo of Equatorial Guinea, and Congolese Prime Minister Ange Edouard Poungui, who is representing President Denis Sassou-Nguesso. The Gabonese and Equatorial Guinean presidents, who arrived within a few minutes of each other, were welcomed by their Chadian counterpart, President Hissein Habre. The head of state was accompanied by the secretary general of the UDEAC [Customs and Economic Union of Central Africa], Mr Ambroise Foalem. [passage omitted] The Central African Republic and the

Republic of Cameroon will be represented at the ministerial level at the 23d council of the heads of state of the UDEAC. This session will open tomorrow at 0900 in the conference hall of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. [passage omitted]

Finance Ministers End Meeting

AB182023 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1845 GMT 17 Dec 87

[Excerpt] The ministers of finance and those heading economic development programs who are also members of the UDEAC Management Committee, ended their meeting this morning in the meeting room of the Faysal Mosque. The ministers over 3 days examined the various items on the agenda of the experts meeting. Following the ceremony this morning, the UDEAC deputy secretary general, (Ambroise Mbe Icongo), presented a report on the deliberations of the meeting.

[Begin recording] During its closed-door session from 15 to 16 December 1987, the UDEAC Management Committee had the following seven items on its agenda:

1. Adoption of the agenda.

2. Adoption of matters that have [words indistinct] of the experts meeting.

3. Discussion of matters sent for arbitration.

4. Report by the current committee chairman of the ministers of agriculture, livestock, [words indistinct].

5. Report by the chairman of the Ministerial Committee on Posts and Telecommunications.

6. Report on the 30th session of the board meeting of the Committee on Customs Duties.

7. Miscellaneous. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Budget, Other Agreements Adopted

AB191648 Paris AFP in English 1622 GMT 19 Dec 87

[Text] Ndjamena, Dec 19 (AFP)—The 23d summit of the Customs and Economic Union of Central Africa (UDEAC) ended here Saturday [19 October] by adopting a budget of two billion CFA francs (724,000 dollars) for 1988, down 22 percent on 1987. The organisation, made up of Cameroon, Congo, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea, the Central African Republic and Chad, in which 21 million people live, was being held for the first time in the Chadian capital.

Member states signed several agreements on livestock, meat and fishing resources as well as creating a reinsurance scheme, but made no mention in its final communique of the thorniest issues confronting UDEAC, whose member states are currently suffering an economic crisis. These include the question of the free circulation of people from one country to another and the solidarity fund to compensate for uneven development between the richer coastal countries of Cameroon, Congo and Gabon and the landlocked countries of Chad and Central Africa.

Only three of the organization's six head of states attended the summit here: Hissein Habre of Chad, Omar Bongo of Gabon and Teodoro Obiang Nuguema of Equatorial Guinea. The state of Sao Tome and Principe had observer status.

Summit Ends 19 Dec

AB191513 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1330 GMT 19 Dec 87

[Excerpt] The 23d summit of UDEAC heads of state and government ended this morning. The closing ceremony took place in the conference hall of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. All the heads of state or their representatives attended this official closing ceremony. [passage omitted]

Egypt

Communique 'Strongly' Condemns Israeli Acts

NC191417 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1255 GMT 19 Dec 87

[Text] Cairo, 19 Dec (MENA)—Egypt has strongly condemned the repression enacted by the Israeli occupation authorities against unarmed citizens of the occupied Arab territories and has asked Israel to work for a rapid end to its occupation of these territories and to respect the legitimate rights of the claimants to the occupied land.

The following is the text of the official communique released by Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif on this matter:

President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, as well as all the Egyptian people, are following the bloody events currently taking place in the occupied Arab land in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank with the utmost concern and extreme indignation. In these incidents, Israel is practicing methods of suppression, ignoring the innocent lives of women, children, and the elderly, and breaching its international obligations in a manner which calls for regret and threatens the peace process in the Middle East.

Israel's policy in the occupied Arab territories in defiance of the international community and its indiscriminate firing on civilians will only bring further violence and tension. It will deepen hatred, aversion, and vengeance and it will harm the peace efforts being made at a time when all eyes are looking for a glimmer of hope.

Egypt demands that this deteriorating state of affairs be brought to an end immediately and that Israel respect the rights of the inhabitants in the occupied territories as stipulated by international accords and charters. Egypt asks Israel to respond to the legitimate demands of the people in the occupied territories and calls for immediate efforts to terminate the occupation and to reach an acceptable formula for coexistence among all the peoples of the region based on mutual respect of rights and duties and the achievement of a maximum degree of stability for all the parties concerned.

Gaza Incidents Protested to Israeli Envoy

NC201314 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 20 Dec 87

[Text] The Foreign Ministry summoned the Israeli ambassador in Cairo today to express to him Egypt's protest with regard to the repressive and barbaric actions which the Israeli authorities have taken in the Gaza Strip against the Palestinian inhabitants there. Egypt considers these actions to be blatant violations of Palestinian human rights.

Egypt stressed that the continuation of these violations and practices could threaten the peace process in the Middle East. Egypt called for an immediate end to these hostile practices in order to avoid the grave danger threatening the peace process.

Reportage on Visit by Niger Foreign Minister

Arrives 19 Dec

NC190733 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0625 GMT 19 Dec 87

[Text] Cairo, 19 Dec (MENA)—Niger Foreign Minister Sani Bako arrived here early this morning on a 4-day visit to Egypt. While in Cairo he will lead his country's delegation to the meetings of the Egyptian-Niger joint committee due to open later today. Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, will head Egypt's team to these meetings.

In an arrival statement, the Niger minister said that the joint committee will discuss current African issues and international topics of interest to both countries, as well as bilateral relations and ways to promote them in all fields. The Niger minister was received at the airport by Dr Butrus Ghali.

Begins Talks

NC191136 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1045 GMT 19 Dec 87

[Text] Cairo, 19 Dec (MENA)—The first session of the second round of meetings of the Higher Egyptian-Niger Joint Committee opened here this morning. The meetings, which are to last for 3 days, are being cochaired by Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, and Niger Foreign Minister Sani Bako.

Meets With Mubarak

NC201255 Cairo MENA in English 1210 GMT 20 Dec 87

[Text] Cairo, Dec. 20 (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak today received the foreign minister of Niger, Sani Bako, who arrived here yesterday on a few days' visit to Egypt. Present at the meeting were Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr. Butrus Ghali and the ambassador of Niger in Cairo.

Talks With Sidqi

NC201930 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1910 GMT 20 Dec 87

[Text] Cairo, 20 Dec (MENA)—Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi received Niger Foreign Minister Sani Bako, who is currently visiting Cairo, at his office this evening. During the meeting, they discussed cooperation in various fields and reviewed African issues and the latest developments in the Middle East situation. The meeting was attended by Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, and Ibrahim Hasan, Niger ambassador in Cairo.

Reportage on Visit by Jordanian Official

Arrives With Message

NC190949 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0935 GMT 19 Dec 87

[Text] Cairo, 19 Dec (MENA)—Marwan al-Qasim, chief of the Royal Jordanian Court, arrived here this morning from Amman on a visit to Egypt lasting only a few hours. In an arrival statement, Al-Qasim said he is carrying a written message to President Husni Mubarak from His Majesty King Husayn of Jordan. The Jordanian official was received at the airport by Husayn Hamami, Jordan's ambassador in Cairo, and Nasir al-Ansari, secretary at the Presidential Office.

Received by Mubarak

NC191042 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0932 GMT 19 Dec 87

[Text] Cairo, 19 Dec (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received Marwan al-Qasim, chief of the Jordanian Royal Court, at the Presidential Palace today. The meeting was attended by Dr Usamah al-Baz, first under secretary of the Foreign Ministry and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, and Husayn Hamami, Jordan's ambassador in Cairo. Al-Qasim arrived here earlier today on a visit to Egypt that will last for a few hours.

On King Husayn's Mediations

NC191359 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1300 GMT 19 Dec 87

[Text] Cairo, 19 Dec (MENA)—Marwan al-Qasim, chief of the Jordanian Royal Court, presented a written message to President Husni Mubarak from King Husayn of

Jordan during their meeting today. Al-Qasim said that the message deals with the continuing consultations between the two leaders, particularly in view of the fact that it comes on the eve of King Husayn's visit to the Soviet Union on Monday [21 December].

The Jordanian official reported that he and President Mubarak had discussed the events currently taking place in the occupied Arab territories, as well as the ongoing resistance to the Israeli occupation. Al-Qasim said that these events are a reminder that serious efforts must be made to hold an international conference through which a peaceful settlement may be reached.

Commenting on the mediation efforts which King Husayn is conducting to bridge Arab differences, Al-Qasim asserted that the endeavors made during the Amman summit will bear fruit in the next few weeks. The momentum initiated by this summit, he added, must be maintained to boost inter-Arab ties and give a new meaning to Arab solidarity, a concept which is much needed throughout the Arab world.

With regard to Jordanian mediation to end Egyptian-Syrian differences, Al-Qasim said that King Husayn is working on the assumption that any activity which could bring any of the Arab brothers closer together can only be beneficial.

Departs for Amman 19 Dec

NC191630 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1530 GMT 19 Dec 87

[Text] Cairo, 19 Dec (MENA)—Marwan al-Qasim, chief of the Jordanian Royal Court, left Cairo for home today. He stayed in Egypt only 4 hours. During his visit, he presented a written message from King Husayn of Jordan to President Husni Mubarak. Al-Qasim was seen off at Cairo Airport by Dr 'Usamah al-Baz, first under secretary at the Foreign Ministry and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, and Husayn Hamami, Jordan's ambassador to Egypt.

Dr al-Baz said that Al-Qasim's visit was part of the continuous process of consultation and coordination between President Mubarak and King Husayn, the purpose of which is to promote Arab interests.

Mubarak Receives Soviet Friendship Delegation

NC200946 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0930 GMT 20 Dec 87

[Text] Cairo, 20 Dec (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received the members of the Soviet-Egyptian Friendship Society delegation at the presidential office this morning. The delegation, which is led by Vladimir Vinogradov, Society chairman and RSFSR foreign minister, is currently visiting Cairo. The meeting was also attended by Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, and Soviet Ambassador in Cairo Gennadiy Zhuravlev.

'Cordial Atmosphere' Noted

NC201249 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1210 GMT 20 Dec 87

[Text] Cairo, 20 Dec (MENA)—Following the Soviet-Egyptian Friendship Society delegation's meeting with President Husni Mubarak today, Vladimir Vinogradov, chairman of the Society and RSFSR foreign minister, said discussions dealt with the Middle East problem. He said the two parties agreed on the need to convene an international peace conference as the only way to establish peace in the Middle East. Vinogradov stressed that the permanent members of the Security Council and all the concerned parties must participade in this conference to solve the Middle East issue.

Responding to a question on whether the issue of the Gulf war was discussed during the meeting with President Mubarak, Vladimir Vinogradov said: Views were exchanged on the current situation in the Gulf. A common stand was reached which stresses the need to stop this war as soon as possible. He emphasized that Egypt and the Soviet Union agree that Security Council Resolution 598, which calls for an end to the Gulf war, should be implemented.

The Soviet official also pointed out the closeness of views on other international problems and issues discussed during the meeting, as well as on Egyptian-Soviet relations. He said talks during the meeting dealt with the activities of the Soviet-Egyptian Friendship Society, which is led by him on the Soviet side and by Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, on the Egyptian side. Vinogradov expressed satisfaction and pleasure at meeting with President Mubarak, adding that a cordial atmosphere prevailed during that meeting.

Foreign Minister Leaves for Talks in Madrid

NC190902 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0810 GMT 19 Dec 87

[Text] Cairo, 19 Dec (MENA)—Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, left Cairo for Madrid this morning on a 3-day visit to Spain in response to an invitation from Spanish Foreign Minister Francisco Fernandez-Ordonez.

In a predeparture statement, Dr 'Abd al-Majid said that he would convey a verbal message from President Husni Mubarak to King Juan Carlos and another one from Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi to his Spanish counterpart Felipe Gonzalez. He added that while in Madrid, he will lead Egypt's delegation to the Egyptian-Spanish joint committee meetings, which are due to open in Spain tomorrow. He will also discuss bilateral relations and ways to promote them in all fields, as well as the current international situation. Dr 'Abd al-Majid added that Egypt appreciates Spain's position and its efforts with the EC.

'Arafat Political Adviser Arrives in Cairo

NC201035 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1026 GMT 20 Dec 87

[Text] Cairo, 20 Dec (MENA)—Hani al-Hasan, political adviser to PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat, arrived in Cairo early today. A Palestinian official in Cairo said that Hani al-Hasan, PNC member Sa'id Kamal, and PLO charge d'affaires in Cairo Zuhdi al-Qadrah will have consultations with senior Egyptian officials on developments in the occupied Arab territories and on Egyptian-Palestinian relations.

'Military Spokesman' Refutes Libyan Claims

NC190854 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0810 GMT 19 Dec 87

[Text] Cairo, 19 Dec (MENA)—The official military spokesman for the Egyptian Defense Ministry has commented on the persistent misleading reports by the Libyan news agency to the effect that U.S. 6th Fleet troops have carried out military exercises in the 'Adabiyah military port in Suez. He noted that the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-WATAN has followed suit, reporting that Egypt is shrouding these exercises in secrecy. The official spokesman described the reports as untrue, fabricated, and misleading.

In a statement to the AL-AHRAM newspaper, published today, the official spokesman refuted another report by the same news agency which stated that Libyan radar had detected Israeli aircraft northeast of Africa under the protection of an Egyptian umbrella and a number of U.S. 6th Fleet aircraft in a bid to prepare for an Israeli aggression against Libya. He described the report as a sheer lie and mere illusion.

MENA on Paper's Warning About Al-Qadhdhafi

NC191951 Cairo MENA in English 0707 GMT 19 Dec 87

[Excerpt] Cairo, Dec 19 (MENA)—[Passage omitted] AKHBAR AL-YAWM gives a prominent front-page column by editor Ibrahim Sa'dah under the heading "The Danger Posed by This Man" in which he called to review our attitude to the behaviour of Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi of Libya. Sa'dah warns that we have not to view this man lightly and have to pay more heed to the schemes he masterminds for the destabilisation of the security of Egypt, as a people and as a regime. [passage omitted]

Explosion at Munitions Warehouse in Alexandria

NC211023 Paris AFP in English 1012 GMT 21 Dec 87

[Text] Alexandria, Egypt, Dec 21 (AFP)—Dozens of persons were overcome by fumes early Monday after an explosion here at a munitions storehouse used by the Egyptian Navy, correspondents on the scene reported. Authorities declared a state of emergency at all hospitals in this Mediterranean city, ordered the evacuation of several districts on the western outskirts and closed schools. It was not immediately clear if the blast had caused deaths or injuries.

Dense Fumes After Blast

NC211219 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1200 GMT 21 Dec 87

[Text] Alexandria, 21 Dec (MENA)—A large explosion took place this morning in a chemical warehouse in Al-Mitras, west of Alexandria, resulting in the formation of a dense cloud which spread to adjacent areas. Strong winds helped to move and spread this cloud over Alexandria, particularly over the western and central parts of the city and Al-'Amiriyah.

Civil defense and fire service teams are now surrounding the explosion site. They are making great efforts to control and extinguish the fire and to stop the rise of gases by using sand and various appropriate fire extinguishing materials.

The inhabitants of the area around the warehouse have been evacuated. Several schools and companies were closed after a large number of citizens fainted or suffered asphyxiation symptoms as a result of breathing the gases rising from the site of the incident. There are dense fumes in the area, which are spreading rapidly to other parts of the city. Ambulances and private vehicles are evacuating those suffering from asphyxiation to various hospitals, which have been put on a state of alert and are being supplied with a large number of oxygen cylinders.

Al-Azhar Denounces Recent Israeli Practices

NC201803 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1555 GMT 20 Dec 87

[Text] Caio, 20 Dec (MENA)—The Al-Azhar has denounced the acts of repression and mistreatment being carried out by the Israeli occupation forces against the Arab Palestinian people in the occupied Arab territories. It has condemned Israel's killing and eviction of the Palestinian people and its violation of the sanctity of mosques and places of worship.

This denunciation came in a statement issued today by Shaykh Jad al-Haq 'Ali Jad al-Haq, the Al-Azhar grand imam. It confirms the condemnation by Al-Azhar—its students, its scholars, and all its institutions—of the ongoing practices in Palestine. The statement appeals to the steadfast Palestinians to persevere in their firm stand in the face of violence, seeking God Almighty's support. It also calls on the UN organizations to shoulder their responsibilities. It requests that the UN Security Council and Amnesty International take up their duties and investigate the past and current crimes of murder, eviction, and violation of the sanctity of mosques and places of worship, as well as the infringement on public property.

In his statement, the Al-Azhar grand imam asks the major countries, which have called for combating terrorism and which proclaim themselves the advocates of freedom and democracy, to end the terrorist acts of a state that they forcibly established in Palestine and that they have provided, and continue to provide, with all means for survival and belligerence. The statement calls on the ICO and the Nonaligned Movement to expedite international efforts to halt the ongoing acts of aggression against the Palestinian people and to support them in defense of their very survival, their territories, and their holy places. It also appeals to Muslims throughout the world to support their brother Palestinians in their crisis by any means they can afford, and to come to their side in the face of the terrorist storm they are presently enduring.

Commentary on U.S. 'Blind Support' for Israel

NC201525 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1240 GMT 20 Dec 87

[Mursi 'Atallah commentary: "Remarks Over the Palestinian Uprising That Must Be Understood by America and Israel"]

[Text] This is not the first time that the United States has threatened to veto a UN Security Council draft resolution condemning the suppressive Israeli measures against the Palestinian people in the occupied Arab territories. Nor is it the first time that the United States has resorted to all sorts of pressure and influence to prevent the UN Security Council from adopting practical measures to bring an end to the obstinate Israeli policy and to help alleviate the sufferings of the inhabitants of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, who are being subjected to the most horrible acts of repression and maltreatment.

However, what is worth noting this time is the U.S. delegate's insistence on amending three paragraphs in the draft resolution proposed by the nonaligned countries before the Security Council. These paragraphs make explicit reference to the Palestinian people, whereas the United States wants to mention the word Palestinians without any reference to the word people. What is even stranger is the U.S. delegate's request that the cities in which the uprising has broken out be named specifically in the draft resolution instead of referring to them as the occupied Palestinian territories, and that the paragraph asking the UN secretary general to dispatch a special envoy to the region to investigate these incidents be omitted.

This strange U.S. position represents a noticeable retreat that could jeopardize the peace drive being made in the region, for the Americans are the first to know that the Palestinian issue is the core and crux of the Mideast conflict. Therefore, any attempt to depict the issue as a refugee problem and to ignore the words people or Palestinian territories will clearly encourage Israel to continue its policy of the annexation of lands and the eviction of people. The United States will be held fully responsible for encouraging fanaticism and extremism in Israel should it continue to pursue this policy, which runs contrary to the principles and objectives of the UN Charter, the respect for the independence and sovereignty of countries, the liquidation of colonialism, and the termination of apartheid.

A clear example of this is the fact that the Israeli UN Security Council's dele[illegible]e started an argument with his British counterpart merely because the latter stated that the entry of Israeli troops into the West Bank and Gaza in 1967 was an act of occupation and seizure and that the articles of the Geneva Convention therefore applied in this case. The Israeli representative, who raised heaven and hell atop the Security Council's pulpit—rejecting the notion that the military authority in the occupied Arab territories is one of occupation—would never have dared to say this were it not for his awareness of U.S. support for this mistaken logic, which clearly reveals Israel's true intentions and goals.

The United States would do better if it realized the menace posed by its continuing blind support for Israel and the fact that this policy can drag the entire region into serious directions that could prove difficult to handle in the future. The fact remains, however, that no matter how ferocious and violent Israel's suppressive measures against the Palestinian people become, and regardless of the many facets of U.S. support for Israel's extremist standpoint, peace and stability in the region can be achieved only through the termination of the occupation and the fulfillment of the legitimate aspirations of the Palestinian people, whose recent uprising has enjoyed the respect and admiration of the entire world. This is what America must understand and what Israel must recognize before it is too late, for the U.S. veto will neither achieve Israel's security nor lead to peace in the region.

Papers Comment on Israeli Actions, U.S. Stand

NC210659 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2220 GMT 20 Dec 87

[Excerpts] Cairo, 20 Dec (MENA)—[Passage omitted] The commentaries featured in the three main Egyptian newspapers deal with the clashes that have been taking place between heavily armed Israeli forces and unarmed Palestinians in the occupied Arab territories.

AL-AHRAM says that these clashes have become normal daily events. The paper states, however, that the current uprising is probably unprecedented in depth and continuity since the 1967 occupation.

AL-AHRAM emphasizes that Israeli practices in the occupied Arab territories will only engender fresh armies of armed strugglers and those who are prepared to sacrifice their lives, now that death for the cause has become a matter of course irrespective of how long the struggle may take. [passage omitted]

AL-AHRAM concludes its commentary by affirming that time is not on Israel's side and that what Israel is currently doing or is threatening to do will only lead to the consolidation of the resistance movement and its spirit, as long as fundamental rights are lost or denied. [passage omitted]

Commenting on the same subject, AL-AKHBAR says that despite the fact that the United States is a friend of the Arabs, according to U.S. leaders, the United States stands by Israel whether it is right or wrong and irrespective of how many crimes and acts of aggression it commits against the Arabs. This casts dark shadows on the alleged friendship toward the Arabs, obliterating all the sentiments one expects from a friend.

The paper says: We do not deny the so-called special relationship between Washington and Tel Aviv. However, the United States, in its capacity as an important superpower, should abide by the provisions of international law and the UN Charter, which ban the occupation of land by force and regulate procedures for the treatment of the population of territories that fall temporarily under the yoke of occupation until they are returned to their owners. The United States should also deal fairly with everyone and not support an oppressive aggressor against unarmed people who are only seeking to live and be free.

AL-AKHBAR denounces the U.S. stand on the tragedy taking place in the occupied Palestinian territories at the hands of the Israeli forces. It notes in this respect that the U.S. defense of human rights appears to be clear to the U.S. President only as far as the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe are concerned. When it is a question of the rights of the Palestinian people, the position becomes one of support for states that trifle with these rights. This position even extends to the point of preventing any international condemnation of these states.

AL-AKHBAR concludes its commentary by emphasizing that such stands will not help to extinguish the fire that has been kindled by the current Palestinian uprising. In addition, they harm the image of the United States as a supporter of human rights and peace.

Libya

Tripoli Protests, Denies U.S. 'Accusations'

LD201455 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1436 GMT 20 Dec 87

[Text] Tripoli, 20 Dec (JANA)—JANA has learned that the Belgian ambassador has been summoned by the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison and asked to convey the following protest to the U.S. Government:

1. Libya rejects the false U.S. accusations against the Jamahiriyah of aiding terrorism, for the U.S. Government has been unable to provide any evidence to confirm these false accusations;

2. Using this pretext as justification for the United States to continue an economic boycott of Libya is unjustifiable;

3. Libya has always been the victim of U.S. hegemony and of its arrogant policy, and the U.S. aggression against Libya in 1986 is the strongest evidence of this; and

4. The claim that Libya constitutes a threat to the United States is unbelievable.

Al-Qadhdhafi on U.S. 6th Fleet 'Provocation'

LD181307 Tripoli JANA in English 0941 GMT 18 Dec 87

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Kanun [December] 18, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The leader of the revolution declares that along the Mediterranean Sea there is a continuous American provocation from the Sixth Fleet firing on imaginary targets and engaging in an electronic war.

He said if we closely judge the situation we might realise either it is an intimidation to set the scene for an Israeli assault or it is an intended disturbance to the pan-Arab conference of opposition parties.

Egyptian Denials Condemned

LD202204 Tripoli JANA in English 1745 GMT 20 Dec 87

[Text] Egyptian capital, Al-Kanun [December] 20, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—A military spokesman at the Ministry of Defence at the Egyptian regime has referred to the trainings carried out three days ago by forces from the American Sixth Fleet at 'Adabiyah port in Suez.

The spokesman tried to deny, in his statement released by the Egyptian official news agency, that these exercises were kept secret by the Egyptian authorities.

Also the spokesman attempted to deny what was asserted by sources of Libyan Arab air traffic control and Libyan radar on the spotting of Zionist aircraft near Al-Abraq under the protection of an umbrella of Egyptian aircraft and aircraft from the American Sixth Fleet exercises which were going on at Al-Ab'adiyah port in Suez by the forces of the Sixth Fleet.

The editor of Arab affairs in JANA remarked that international media have ignored the denial of the spokesman of the Ministry of Defence of the Egyptian regime. The editor pointed out that the American exercises at 'Adabiyah port broke secrecy especially after the spokesman himself declared that, and we believe that it is possible for any neutral party to ascertain that considering that the matter became totally sure and was recorded. [sentence as received]

The editor added that concerning the flying of Zionist aircraft under an Egyptian-American umbrella, the denial of the Egyptian regime of that, is meaningless for this regime is not a neutral party whose opinion could be taken into account and we do not think that it has enough courage to confirm the matter.

Cairo Paper's Call for 'Direct' Strike Scored

LD202345 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 20 Dec 87

[Text] The Egyptian newspaper AL-AKHBAR, which is the mouthpiece of the Egyptian regime, has called for direct military aggression against the Great Jamahiriyah. In an editorial comment by its chief editor today, it said the time has come to launch what it termed a direct military strike against Libya. JANA's political editor commented on this by saying:

First: What was written in Egypt's AL-AKHBAR constitutes an open and clear invitation to launch war against the Great Jamahiriyah. This paper speaks in the name of the Egyptian regime, and the silence of that regime on this call thus constitutes official approval for it.

Second: Inciting the Egyptian regime to launch aggression against the Libyan Arab people is occurring at the same time that Zionist aircraft are flying over the airspace of our eastern border, under the protection of Egyptian aircraft and those of the U.S. 6th Fleet. It also comes at a time when forces of this fleet are carrying out large-scale exercises at a number of Egyptian ports. Therefore, what has been written in the Egyptian newspaper is actually a Zionist-U.S. threat with an Egyptian accent. This threat may be in preparation for a tripartite act of aggression against the Great Jamahiriyah.

Third: We link this threat with earlier plans disclosed by the U.S. information media to invade Libyan Arab territory by using the Egyptian regime as a springboard and a bridgehead. We consider this to be a preparation for aggression from the east in an attempt to achieve what the Atlanticists failed to accomplish from the north and the south.

Fourth: We have repeatedly drawn attention to the fact that the Egyptian Arab Army, after being forced to withdraw from the battle against the Zionist enemy, due to the stable David agreements, has been moved by the Egyptian regime to involve it in conflicts serving only those agreements. This is particularly the case following the noticeable increase of U.S. and Zionist influence in Egypt. This increased influence has now reached broad sections of the Egyptian Armed Forces. Thus, all of this has proved what we have affirmed; namely, that following Egypt's surrender, the Great Jamahiriyah has actually become a front of direct confrontation with the Zionist enemy.

Fifth: The choice of this timing to create battles with the Jamahiriyah and tension on its border was not unintentional. Instead, it was simultanuously aimed at blurring and covering up the uprising of the masses in the occupied territories and the explosive situation there. The purpose is also to preoccupy the Egyptian Arab people and divert their attention from their basic problems, which were essentially caused by Egypt's total surrender to the enemy and the loss of its will to the United States and Zionism.

It was also no coincidence that this threat to attack the Jamahiriyah comes at a time when the land of the Great 1 September Revolution is witnessing a series of serious unionist meetings on the road to Arab unity.

The political editor asks: Can we consider the call of the newspaper of the Egyptian Government to combat Libya militarily to be an awakening of conscience, as well as some sort of gratitude for the Libyan Arab people who stood by sisterly Egypt with all their material, spiritual, and human capabilities at the time of ordeal and in confronting the Zionist-U.S. aggression against it. Or, instead, does it mean that the Egyptian regime intends to give us the early fruits of the restoration of its relations with some Arab regimes?

The editor concluded his commentary by saying: As for the base style and the words of the drug addicts used by the official Egyptian newspaper, we would leave these to the evaluation and judgment of Arab patriots. However, it is worth noting that this style reminds us exactly of that which the traitor Al-Sadat was using to boast and was employing only days before his voice was silenced, when he was buried forever.

Attack on Al-Qadhdhafi Detailed

NC191942 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 1815 GMT 19 Dec 87

[Text] News agencies have carried the following report from the Egyptian capital: The Egyptian weekly AKHBAR AL-YAWM has accused Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi of planning to overthrow the Egyptian Government. The newspaper then urges that a counterstrike be launched in self-defense. In today's edition, Ibrahim Sa'dah, editor of that newspaper, writes in an editorial column: The time has come for us to reconsider our dealings with Colonel al-Qadhdhafi, the man who rules our fraternal neighboring country. This man has no other concern aside from toppling our system of government and terrorizing our people. He adds: We must not be lenient with him. We must be alert to his schemes and strike a blow at him, one that he will not rise from again. We must do this as soon as we obtain information proving his treacherous intentions. Sa'dah continues: Egypt must take the initiative and begin with a strike of its own. It must not wait until Libya launches an attack against it.

Sa'dah adds: Egypt's proclaimed policy of not attacking an Arab country must not restrict our actions, for when we direct our preemptive strike against Libya, it will be a case of self-defense and of defending our territory and security. Sa'dah further writes: Al-Qadhdhafi has insulted Egypt, its government, and its people often enough. It is time to discipline him and to deliver the world from his evil acts, deviation, and terrorism.

Israeli Violation of Egyptian Airspace Viewed

LD202046 Tripoli JANA in English 1758 GMT 20 Dec 87

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Kanun [December] 20, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The political editor of JANA made the following commentary:

It has been confirmed that the Israeli fighter aircraft of "Eeda" [as received] air base in the occupied "Naqab" [Negev] flew over Sinai on reconnaisance mission to monitor any Egyptian presence in violation of the treaty of David stable and it is known that the Israelis desire to shackle Egypt with every letter of the said treaty whilst they, on their part, abandoned all obligations to apply it and first amongst [words indistinct] The (?autonomy), a halt on the construction of settlements and (?the) process which became a process of war and genocide of the Palestinian and Lebanese people.

It was confirmed that the Egyptian soldiers opened fire on those fighters hitting one of them and an Egyptian nationalist officer threatened that as from now on he will resist with missiles if the Zionist enemy persisted in its arrogance and ridicule of the Egyptians. And as the situation is such, the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah puts all its resources at the disposal of sisterly Egypt recalling that the breakdown between the two countries was caused by this reason [word indistinct] and as soon as Egypt [words indistinct] this enemy or if the latter persisted in confronting it matters go back to their normal course. It is the one brotherhood and land and the one nation and the united struggle against the common enemy and [words indistinct] air defence and the air force are ready to move to confront the enemy there.

Egyptian-Israeli Flight Agreement Noted

NC191957 Tripoli Voice of Greater Arab Homeland in Arabic 1815 GMT 19 Dec 87

[Text] According to press reports, the Egyptian regime and the Zionist enemy are in the process of signing a new agreement under which Zionist aircraft will be allowed to fly in Egyptian airspace. The Egyptian newspaper SAWT AL-'ARAB has reported that under the terms of the agreement, Zionist airplanes will be supplied with fuel and equipment. These planes and their passengers will also not be subject to restrictions or to searches.

Chadian Claims of Overflights Refuted

LD201555 Tripoli JANA in English 1500 GMT 20 Dec 87

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Kanun [December] 20, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Ndjamena radio claimed that aircraft from the Libyan Arab Airforce flew over northern Chad four times during the last 4 days. The radio said that constitutes a violation of the ceasefire. The editor of international affairs in JANA refuted these claims and allegations and denied any violation of the ceasefire. He said: "These allegations are American pressures on Ndjamena and part of the chain of the political chain [as received] of hostile imperialism against People's Revolution and its base Great Jamahiriyah and the proof of that is that any aircraft which takes off or lands at the base of the Libyan "Wadi Tanwa" [placename as received] and other bases could be seen with the naked eye in Bardai and the rest of Tibesti areas for their situations on the border and that is how this flights on the Libyan international borders have been exploited as if they were violations to the ceasefire."

The editor added: "If Ndjamena wanted to rush for its end it must play with fire so as to burn it completely and then America would not help it and will realise that America enduced it." [sentence as received]

The editor made clear that Jamahiriyah has (?repeatedly and) persistently asserted that it has no intention of provoking any problems with its neighbours and Chad is in need of peace and food and not for arms which are flooding to it from France and America to settle colonial scorch with Libya. And Libya close down its border with Chad and turned its back to it and will ignore anything taking place there and the world will see that. [sentence as received]

French 'Colonialism' in Chad, Africa Condemned

LD191202 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1100 GMT 19 Dec 87

[Text] Tripoli, 19 Dec (JANA)—A source at the People's Bureau for Foreign Liaison has stated the following:

As a firm principle in its policy and stances, the Great Jamahiriyah stresses that the interference of the colonialist powers in Africa is the original source of this continent's problems and difficulties. The Great Jamahiriyah also emphasizes that these powers are behind the conflicts that are spreading in more than one place on the continent.

Starting from this principle, the Great Jamahiriyah, like the other African countries, believes that African problems concern only Africans, not anyone else or no other party foreign to the continent. Whatever his or its relations with some African countries, they have no right to interfere in these problems.

The fact that Jean-Bernard Raimond, French minister of foreign affairs, told Hasan Taj al-Din, member of the Sudanese State Council, that the Chadians are concerned over what the French minister termed Libyan infiltration across Sudan's borders, comes under this framework. This matter is of no concern to France. France has no right to this issue, and its actions are considered to be direct interference in the internal affairs of more than one African country. France is trying to position itself as a policeman among the African states, but the Great Jamahiriyah does not recognize this role Paris is claiming for itself.

The incendiary style adopted by France in this field is aimed at dividing the African countries and deepening the conflicts and disputes between them. It is a return to the methods of the old colonialism. However, the African Continent will resist them as part of its historic responsibility to oppose colonialism and its schemes.

'Excuses' for Nairobi Mission's Closure Scored

LD191008 Tripoli JANA in English 0915 GMT 19 Dec 87

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Kanun [December] 19, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The Kenyan Government took a unilateral decision to close Great Jamahiriyah's mission in Nairobi. The People's Committee for Foreign Liaison Bureau, as it expresses its regret to the resolution reached by the Kenyan Government, explains its position towards this decision according to the following bases:

First:

Great Jamahiriyah firmly believes that the deep-rooted relations is the ones amongst peoples, the resolutions of government to severe them do not alter their nature on top of which the existing relations between the Kenyan people and the Libyan people as two African peoples which belong to one continent and one destiny.

Second:

Great Jamahiriyah considers (?relations) between African states as a solid foundation, harming them by way of tightening or severing neither serve the interests of the African states nor the causes of African struggle as much as it serves the interests of imperialism and Zionism and their ambitions in the continent.

Third:

The Kenyan Government, by taking such decision, bears the consequent effects of it. Jamahiriyah considers the excuses endorsed by that government in reaching such decision do not lean on correct bases.

It is no secret to anyone the role of the forces hostile to both countries' interests to push towards the [words indistinct] relations. This is what the People's Committee of the Foreign Liaison Bureau has tried to warn against in more than one situation through its handling of the relations between both countries.

The people's committee, as it takes its stance towards the resolution of the Kenyan Government, leave taking the final stance towards it to the People's Congress—the owners of the sovereign decision.

USSR Air Defense Commander Begins Visit

LD201636 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1546 GMT 20 Dec 87

[Text] Tripoli, 20 Dec (JANA)—Ivan Tretyak, member of the CPSU Central Committee, deputy defense minister, and commander in chief of the USSR Air Defense Forces, and his accompanying delegation arrived in Tripoli this morning on a visit to Great Jamahiriyah.

In a statement to a JANA representative on his arrival at Tripoli International Airport, Tretyak praised the relations of the two countries in the fields of friendship and cooperation. He stated that ties between the Libyan Arab and Soviet peoples were positive, and that this visit will further develop them.

He was welcomed by a number of officers from the Libyan Arab Armed Forces, as well as the Soviet ambassador and members from the Soviet Embassy in the Great Jamahiriyah.

Visit of Algeria's Brahimi, Officials Begins

Delegation Arrives 18 Dec

LD181955 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1842 GMT 18 Dec 87

[Text] Tripoli, 18 Dec (JANA)—Brother Abdelhamid Brahimi, member of the FLN Political Bureau and prime minister of the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria, arrived in Tripoli this evening. He is accompanied by the following brother members of the Council of Ministers:

Boualem Bessiaeh, member of the FLN Central Committee and minister of culture and tourism; Zitouni Messaoudi, member of the FLN Central Committee and minister of light industry; Mostefa Benzaza, member of the FLN Central Committee and minister of posts and telecommunications; Mohamed Nabi, member of the FLN Central Committee and minister of social protection; Faysal Boudraa, minister of heavy industry; Mohamed Mokrane Cherifi, minister of commerce; and Yasin Mokrani, deputy minister in charge of energy, chemical, and petrochemical industries.

Brother Abdelhamid Brahimi and the members of the Algerian Goverment are participating in the meeting of the joint Arab Libyan-Algerian executive committee. This body was formed under the framework of implementing and embodying the unionist steps being carried out by the two fraternal countries on the way to building unity, as a step toward achieving comprehensive Arab unity.

Brother Abdelhamid Brahimi and the brother ministers received a great welcome at Tripoli International Airport, where the secretary and members of the General People's Committee led the reception committee. Also participating were a number of officers from the Libyan Arab Armed Forces, the heads of the Arab diplomatic missions accredited to the Great Jamahiriyah, the secretary of the Libyan Arab People's Bureau in Algeria; Abdelkader Hadjar, Algerian ambassador to the Great Jamahiriyah; and members of the embassy.

Brother Abdelhamid Brahimi told a JANA correspondent: I would like to say how happy I am to be in the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, together with an important delegation representing different sectors of the Algerian Government, to discuss and evaluate our actions, which are proceeding from the program that we discussed in Algiers earlier this year. We are also visiting to examine ways of improving this multifaceted bilateral cooperation, not only in economic matters but also in social issues.

You all know of Algeria's interest in building the Greater Arab Maghreb as a step toward Arab unity. Our basic statutes, whether the National Charter or the Constitution, also emphasize the need to establish the Greater Arab Maghreb. I believe that the method put forward for unionist joint action is sound. I additionally note with satisfaction the positive results that we have achieved over the past 1 to 1 and 1/2 years, and particularly after the meeting which brought together Brother President Chadli Bendjedid, president of the Republic and general secretary of the FLN, and the brother leader of the Libyan revolution in May 1976. This meeting provided a new impetus to consolidate bilateral relations on a firm basis for the Arab Maghreb. Therefore, we are optimistic, we are making increasing efforts to attain this objective.

Brother Abdelhamid Brahimi added: We believe that our work with the Jamahiriyah over the past 1 and 1/2 years is a positive step toward constructing the Arab Maghreb. This, in turn, is a step toward unifying the Arab nation. [words indistinct], and this is the view of the Algerian people. As you know, the National Charter is approved by the Algerian people in a memorandum.

We hope to establish this Arab Maghreb and not worry about the slogans and mere ideas until they can be decided upon. Therefore, we must proceed from the work in the field, and we register our satisfaction with the many joint industrial, social, and cultural projects designed to construct the Great Arab Maghreb on a sound foundation. In my view, correct unionist action is based upon correct economic, social, and cultural rules.

Jallud Receives Brahimi

LD191306 Tripoli JANA in English 1042 GMT 19 Dec 87

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Kanun [December] 19, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Ahmad Jallud last night met with Abdelhamid Brahimi, the supplementary [as received] member of the FLN and prime minister of sisterly Republic of Algeria.

The meeting, attended by the secretary of the General People's Committee, discussed the unionist steps between the Arab people in Great Jamahiriyah and Algeria and a number of current Arab issues.

Jallud Attends Brahimi Banquet

LD191309 Tripoli JANA in English 1044 GMT 19 Dec 87

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Kanun [December] 19, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Ahmad Jallud last night attended the banquet held by the General People's Committee in honour of Abdelhamid Brahimi, the supplementary [as received] member of the Political Bureau of the FLN and the prime minister of sisterly Algeria and members of the Algerian Government.

Present at the banquet were the secretary of the General People's Committee and its members and the heads of Arab diplomatic missions accredited to Great Jamahiriyah.

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Brahimi

LD191316 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1115 GMT 19 Dec 87

[Text] Tripoli, 19 Dec (JANA)—The brother leader of the revolution has received Brother Abdelhamid Brahimi, alternate member of the FLN Political Bureau and prime minister of sisterly Algeria.

Executive Committee Convenes

LD191856 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1159 GMT 19 Dec 87

[Text] Tripoli, 19 Dec (JANA)—The proceedings of the fourth unionist meeting of the joint Libyan Arab-Algerian executive committee began in Tripoli today. The meeting was attended by Brother Prime Minister Abdelhamid Brahimi, members of the Algerian Government, and the brother secretary and members of the General People's Committee.

Brahimi Visits Al-Qadhdhafi Home

LD201833 Tripoli JANA in English 1755 GMT 20 Dec 87

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Kanun [December] 20, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Abdelhamid Brahimi, the supplementary [as received] member of the Politboro of the FLN and the prime minister of sisterly Algeria, and members of the Government of the People's Republic of Algeria yesterday paid a visit to the house of the leader of the revolution where they inspected the effects of the aborted U.S.-NATO barbaric aggression.

Brahimi inserted a statement in the register of visitors in which he said: "Thanks to our steadfastness and struggle before the imperialist external aggression and thanks to our entrenched belief in our revolutionary principles for the liberation of the Arab nation in all spheres and God willing we shall victor." [sentence as received]

The revolutionary unionist action between Great Jamahiriyah and the Republic of Algeria will help in building-up the Arab Maghreb on firm bases as a first step for the unity of the Arab nation and its liberation from foreign subjugation in the economic field and cultural field in particular and forward to record victories in favour of the Arab nation.

Jallud Meets With Brahimi

LD201925 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1840 GMT 20 Dec 87

[Text] Tripoli, 20 Dec (JANA)—This evening, Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Ahmad Jallud received Brother Abdelhamid Brahimi, alternate member of the FLN Political Bureau and prime minister of the Algerian Republic.

The meeting was attended by the secretary of the General People's Committee, the secretary of the Libyan Arab People's Bureau in fraternal Algeria, and the Algerian ambassador to the Great Jamahiriyah.

Session Ends, Agreements Signed

LD202231 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 20 Dec 87

[Text] The proceedings of the unionist meeting of the joint Arab Libyan-Algerian executive committee ended in Tripoli this evening.

The minutes of the fourth meeting of the joint executive committee were signed during this session. The signatories were the brother secretary of the People's General Committee and Brother Abdelhimid Brahimi, alternate member of the FLN Political Bureau and prime minister of fraternal Algeria.

During the final session, which was attended by the members of the People's General Committee and the members of the Algerian Government, the following four protocols were signed:

A cooperation agreement for manpower, and an agreement in the field of social security. These two agreements were signed by the brother secretary of the People's General Committee for Public Service and Brother Mohamed Nabi, member of the FLN Central Committee and minister of social protection in fraternal Algeria.

The third agreement, which concerned cultural matters, was signed by the brother secretary of the People's General Committee for Information, Culture, and Revolutionary Guidance, and Brother Boualem Bessaieh, member of the FLN Central Committee and minister of culture and tourism.

The fourth agreement, which concerns encouraging tourism between the two fraternal countries, was signed by the brother secretary for economy and foreign trade, and Brother Boualem Bessaieh, member of the FLN Central Committee and minister of culture and tourism for fraternal Algeria.

The brother secretary of the People's General Committee delivered a speech at the final session in which he affirmed that these contacts are basic elements for building unity of the Arab Maghrib as well as comprehensive Arab unity. This comes under the aegis of the Arab peoples of the Great Jamahiriyah and Algeria, as well as the linking of destinies in a unity that would include the Arab Maghreb and the entire Arab nation.

In his speech, the secretary of the People's General Committee praised all efforts that have been made to reach these unionist agreements.

Brother Abdelhamid Brahimi, alternate member of the FLN Political Bureau and prime minister, also delivered a speech in which he expressed his satisfaction with the results of the proceedings of the fourth unionist meeting. He termed these results are very positive, for when we assessed the situation, we saw we have succeeded in implementing all the programs that were agreed upon during the third meeting in Algeria. He also added that this opportunity had enabled us to lay down a program for 1988 to strengthen economic integration and to contribute to the construction of the Arab Maghreb in the field [as heard] and in practice, as a step to unifying the Arab nation.

Brother Abdelhamid Brahimi also affirmed that such actions, which have been crowned by the signing of these four agreements in different sectors, will contribute to deepening, enlarging, and strengthening bilateral cooperation. He stated: I would like to thank the brother

members of the Libyan Arab People's General Committee for the hospitality we have enjoyed throughout our stay in Tripoli, and for the facilities that were made available and which enabled our proceedings to be held in the best of conditions.

Press Statement Issued

LD202212 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 20 Dec 87

[Text] This evening, the following press statement was released in both Tripoli and Algiers, at the conclusion of the fourth unionist meeting of the joint Arab Libyan-Algerian executive committee:

Proceeding from the mutual desire of the friendly Arab Libyan and Algerian peoples to realize their unionist aspirations, and from their firm determination to construct the Greater Arab Maghreb as a step on the road of comprehensive Arab unity; and

Working according to the directives of Brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Great Al-Fatih Revolution, and His Excellency President Chadli Bendjedid, president of the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria and general secretary of the FLN at their historic meetings at I-N Amenas, Sidra, and Algiers; and

Implementing the program of action defined by the two leaderships,

The joint Arab Libyan-Algerian executive committee held its fourth session in the city of Tripoli during 27 and 28 Rabi'a al-Thani 1379, as dated from the death of the prophet and corresponding to 19 and 20 December 1987, under the chairmanship of Brothers 'Umar Mustafa al-Muntasir, secretary of the General People's Committee, and Brother Abdelhamid Brahimi, alternate member of the Political Bureau and prime minister. It was also attended by a number of secretaries and ministers.

Brother Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the revolution, opened the session with an instructive speech in which he expressed his satisfaction at the unionist steps being accomplished between the two sisterly countries. These steps are proceeding firmly and determinedly. He expressed his appreciation of the efforts within this framework made by both sides, and stressed the importance of cohesion between the two revolutions. Brother Col al-Qadhdhafi said that the two brotherly peoples are forging their way toward the future with independence and with full confidence. The brother leader noted the wise policy of the Algerian leadership for building the federation of the Greater Arab Maghreb as a step on the road to comprehensive Arab unity. He stressed that this fourth meeting of the joint executive committee constitutes a brick in the unionist structure and evidence that the two countries are capable of joint unionist action.

The meetings of the joint executive committee were conducted in a brotherly and constructive atmosphere. During the proceedings, an extensive study was made of the whole range of joint action in the economic, cultural, and social sectors since the third session of the joint executive committee was held in Algiers from 14 to 17 June 1987.

The meeting tackled the means of realizing cooperation and increasing it in expression of the firm will to expand cooperation to help realize the aspirations of the two brotherly peoples for integration and unity.

The two sides expressed their deep satisfaction at the qualitative growth in their relations in laying down the solid foundation for attaining industrial integration and in defining the future prospects for developing the economies of the two brotherly countries. In this regard, the joint executive committee noted its satisfaction with the practical steps that have been taken in the fields of chemical industries, electrical industries, processing industries, petrochemical industries, iron and steel, energy, construction, and irrigation. These steps have crystalized in the form of the establishment of a number of joint companies that have begun operations and in the intensification and expansion of trade between the two countries.

The committee has also studied the prospects for cooperation between the two countries in the fields of irrigation, public works, construction, transport, as well as those sectors related to consecrating the originality of the culture and civilization of the two brotherly peoples.

During this session, a number of agreements were signed in the culture, tourism, labor, and social security sectors. The two sides have agreed on a timetable for an action program for the near and the medium terms. This timetable was included in the minutes of the meeting and was signed to crown the work of the session.

During the Algerian delegation's stay in Tripoli, the brother leader of the revolution received Brother Abdelhamid Brahimi, alternate member of the Political Bureau and prime minister, and his accompanying delegation. The Algerian delegation was also received by Brother Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Ahmad Jallud.

The Algerian prime minister made an inspection tour of the Ra's Tanuf petrochemical industries complex and also of the Great Man-Made River project, where he expressed his appreciation for these great achievements of the Libyan Arab people.

The Algerian prime minister and his accompanying delegation also inspected the aftermath of the U.S. imperialist aggression that the Arab Libyan people were exposed to in April 1986. This aggression was aimed at the home of the leader of the revolution.

Issued in Tripoli on 28 Rabi'a al-Thani 1397, as dated from the death of the prophet and corresponding to 20 December 1987.

Sudanese Premier Al-Mahdi Begins Visit

Arrives 18 Dec

LD181256 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1202 GMT 18 Dec 87

[Text] Tripoli, 18 Dec (JANA)—Brother al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, prime minister of sisterly Sudan, and an accompanying delegation arrived in Tripoli this morning. Brother al-Sadiq al-Mahdi received a grand welcome at Tripoli International Airport, where Colonel Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir, commander in chief of the Libyan Arab Armed Forces, led those who welcomed the visitor.

The welcoming ceremony was also attended by the secretary and members of the People's General Committee, a number of officers from the Libyan Arab Force, the Sudanese ambassador, members of the sisterly Sudanese Embassy, and a number of heads of diplomatic missions accredited to the Great Jamahiriyah.

Brother al-Sadiq al-Mahdi is accompanied on his visit by Brother Ibrahim Hasan 'Abd al-Jalil, minister of trade, cooperation, and provision; Lieutenant General Fawzi al-Fadil, commander in chief of the Sudanese Armed Forces; and Hasan al-Bashir, official at the Sudanese Foreign Ministry.

Upon his arrival at Tripoli International Airport, Brother al-Sadiq al-Mahdi made a statement to JANA in which he said: This visit is the latest in a number of meetings that we have convened at the summit level in our two fraternal countries. We have done this to discuss Arab, Islamic, and international concerns. We pray to God to guide us to success during this meeting, as he has done in others, so we can continue our strong ties.

Meets With Jallud

LD182040 Tripoli JANA in English 1832 GMT 18 Dec 87

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Kanun [December] 18, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Ahmad Jallud received this evening Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi the prime minister of sisterly Sudan and his accompanying delegation which includes Ibrahim Hasan 'Abd al-Jalil the minister of trade, co-operation and provision, General Fawzi al-Fadil the commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces, Hasan al-Bashir the ambassador at the Foreign Ministry and Sudan's ambassador to Great Jamahariyah.

Received by Al-Qadhdhafi

LD191312 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1115 GMT 19 Dec 87

[Text] Tripoli 19 Dec (JANA)—The brother leader of the revolution has received Brother al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, the Sudanese prime minister.

The meeting was attended by Brother Ibrahim Hasan 'Abd al-Jalil, minister of trade, cooperation, and provision; General Fawzi al-Fadil, commander in chief of the Sudanese Armed Forces; Hasan al-Bashir, official at the Foreign Ministry; and the Sudanese ambassador to the Great Jamahiriyah.

Praises Bilateral Ties; Departs

LD192219 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1850 GMT 19 Dec 87

[Text] Tripoli, 19 Dec (JANA)—Brother al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, prime minister of sisterly Sudan, and his accompanying delegation left Tripoli this evening after a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah. Brother al-Sadiq al-Mahdi received a large send-off at Tripoli International Airport, where Colonel Abu Bakr Yunis, commander in chief of the Libyan Arab Armed Forces, led the Libyan party. A number of officers from the Libyan Arab Armed Forces and the ambassador and members of the Sudanese Embassy staff were also present.

Before leaving Tripoli International Airport, Brother al-Sadaq al-Mahdi made a statement to a JANA correspondent in which he said: We have Islamic and pan-Arab bonds between us, as well as strong and well-established bilateral relations. Our talks concentrated on these. I am pleased to say that our views on the issues in question were identical, and that what we have arrived at will consolidate and develop these ties, God willing.

Sudan

Request To Activate Egyptian Defense Pact Noted

JN191552 Manama WAKH in English 1520 GMT 19 Dec 87

[Text] Sharjah, Dec 19 (GNA)—Informed Egyptian sources said that Cairo received a Sudanese Government request to activate the joint defence agreement between the two countries in light of escalation in recent developments in south Sudan and the fall of some border cities to John Garang's forces.

The Sharjah-based newspaper 'AL-KHALIJ' quoted the sources as saying that some Arab Gulf countries advised the Sudanese Government to adhere to the pact with Egypt to face any foreign pressure.

It noted that the Egyptian Government said in its reply that the southern problem is an internal one and would ask the Ethiopian Government not to interfere in Sudan's internal affairs by helping Garang's forces.

Ethiopia Gives 'Positive' Reply on Committee

JN191519 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1455 GMT 19 Dec 87

[Text] Khartoum, 19 Dec (SUNA)—Sudan today received a positive reply from the Ethiopian Government on the meetings of the joint committee agreed upon during the Kampala meeting of Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi and Ethiopian President Mengistu Haile Mariam. This was announced by Foreign Minister Dr Ma'mun Sanadah. He also noted that the government is now considering a reply, and that it will take the necessry steps to continue contacts to establish this committee and to fix a date and place for its meeting. The minister received the Ethiopian reply through the Sudanese ambassador in Addis Ababa.

Taj al-Din on 'Identical' Views With Habre

JN201804 Khartoum SUNA in English 1722 GMT 20 Dec 87

[Text] Khartoum, Dec 20 (SUNA)—Member of the Council of the State Dr. 'Ali Hasan Taj al-Din has expressed hope that the upcoming period would witness calm security situation in the Sudan's western borders.

In a press conference held here today Dr. Taj al-Din reviewed the outcome of his meeting with Chadian President Hissein Habre which was held in the side line of the francophone conference held recently in France.

Taj al-Din said view-points on all the issues discussed with Habre were identical and all misgivings and fears expressed by Habre towards Sudan were removed.

He said that Habre denied the arrival of the Sudan's People Liberation Army leader Col John Garang to Chad or conducting any contacts with the rebel movement.

Dr Taj al-Din said he had met in the sideline of the francophone summit with French President Francois Mitterrand and Prime Minister Jacques Chirac and a number of French parliamentarians and members of the French Senate.

He said "we expect the French financial transactions with Sudan to increase up to a half billion francs by next April."

He pointed out that during the summit Sudan had submitted a work paper on Sudan's internal situation and its relations with the neighbouring countries.

On his meetings with the African head of states during the summit Dr. Taj al-Din said he had met with the presidents of Togo, Somalia, Gambia and Gabon along with the foreign ministers of Tunisia, Egypt and Senegal, in addition to the prime minister of Niger with whom he discussed with the Sudan's internal problems, the refugees issue, and the view-point of the Sudanese Government on how to solve the Sudanese major issues.

Taj al-Din added that he had also discussed with the African head of states the Sudanese-Ethiopian relations.

Armed Forces Pronounced 'In Control' of South

EA192338 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 2130 GMT 18 Dec 87

[Text] The official government spokesman, His Excellency Mr al-Tawm Muhammad al-Tawm, minister of culture and information, has stressed that the Sudanese Armed Forces are in control of the security situation in all the southern regions. He stated this at yesterday's meeting of the Council of Ministers, which was chaired by Mr Sayyid Ahmad al-Husayn, deputy chairman of that body. The Council of Ministers discussed the general security situation in the nation, and was reassured that the Sudanese Armed Forces are now totally prepared to contend with developments and the prospects of escalation on the (?eastern front).

Army Moves Near Kurmuk

EA201854 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 20 Dec 87

[Text] A news dispatch by the mobile radio unit in Ad Damazin has reported that our Armed Forces won shining victories at the combat fronts over the last 24 hours. They succeeded in repulsing the remnants of the rebels and then firmly advanced to the outskirts of Kurmuk town. This was achieved thanks to the cohesiveness of our Armed Forces, their steadfastness, and the high morale of the soldiers. Major General Zayn al-Abidin Qismallah, commander of the 2d Infantry Division in Ad Damazin, emphasized that our courageous Armed Forces would continue to press forward until the last inch of Sudanese territory was soon liberated. His Excellency said that the Armed Forces had succeeded in inflicting heavy losses on the rebels.

Maj Gen Zayn al-Abidin Qismallah has also received a telegram from the chief of the General Staff concerning a decision of the People's Armed Forces General Command to award the Order of Courage, First Class to Major 'al-Tayyib al-Misbah, commander of the Shali al-Fil garrison in southern Blue Nile Province. This is to honor the (?soldiers) of the garrison [words indistinct] for their defiance of death and for their victories over the rebels. In the telegram, the general command congratulated all soldiers in the southern Blue Nile zone and stressed its determination to honor them all when final victory is attained.

The radio unit stressed that the internal front was cohesive in the region, that the security situation was extremely reassuring, that relief operations for the migrants were progressing, and that delegations of charitable and volunteer societies, associations, unions, and institutions were continuing to arrive in the area with supplies and donations for the people affected.

Radio SPLA Reports Successful Operations

MIG-23 Claimed Downed

LD181536 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 18 Dec 87

[Text] An enemy MIG-23 jet fighter was shot over Kurmuk on 7 December 1987 and it flew off with a trail of smoke where it crashed far from Kurmuk. [sentence as heard] SPLA forces are looking for the wreckage. This is the second of the four MIG-23's donated to Sudan by a neighboring country that the SPLA has shot down this year. The commander in chief congratulates once more Commander Salva Kiir Mayar Dit and the officers, NCO's, and men of the southern Blue Nile, for beating back Al-Sadiq's third futile attempt to recapture Kurmuk. Instead, it is the SPLA that captured a second strategic garrison of Qaysan and two small garrisons around it.

Continue to march on, comrades!

Government Garrisons Attacked

EA181621 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 18 Dec 87

[Excerpts] Units of Shakkush [Hammer] Task Force under the direct command of alternate commander John Kong Thuon shelled and raided Kaia Army Garrison, 46 miles south of Yei town, on 27 November 1987. A correspondent says that 6 enemy soldiers and 17 policemen were killed and one ammunition store and one office, both of solid building materials, are reported to have been destroyed. [passage omitted]

Wolf Task Force and two companies of Hadid Battalion ambushed enemy patrol troops between Mayom and Muqlad on 3 December 1987, killing five and wounding several others. One machine gun, No 1046, was captured in good condition. [passage omitted]

An enemy magirus [not further identified] truck traveling from Mundri to Yei detonated a landmine about 30 miles away from Yei. The correspondent says that 11 soldiers on board the truck were killed and others sustained serious injuries on 28 November 1987. The dead were buried in a common grave at the site of the explosion. [passage omitted]

SPLA forces of Battalion 105 under the direct command of alternate commander Isaac Luk Riak, and overall command of Commander John Kuland Fut, alternate member of SPLM-SPLA Political-Military High Command and commander of Aiyot and Fanjak areas, heavily shelled and raided (Som Som) enemy garrison on 16 December 1987. The correspondent says that 23 enemy soldiers were killed, including a first lieutenant by name Ibrahim Khayrallah, and many others were injured. [passage omitted]

Kajo Kaji enemy garrison came under two separate attacks by the SPLA forces of Shakkush Task Force under the operational command of alternate commander Benjamin Makur Lual, and the overall command of Commander James Wani Igga, alternate member of SPLM-SPLA Political-Military High Command and zonal commander for Central and Western Equatoria, on 23 November and 10 December, respectively. The correspondent says that 9 enemy soldiers and 17 militiamen of Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi were killed, of whom one is identified as Corporal ('Ali Kala Kegni) of security section, and many buildings were burned down in the barracks. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, 10 enemy militia and six soldiers were killed and six others were wounded in the second atttack, and one soldier is reported to have escaped to Uganda. Many houses are also reported to have been burned down to ashes. [passage omitted]

Combined SPLA forces of Sobat and Zalzal, commanded by 1st Lieutenant (Malwal Ayom Duor), under the overall command of Commander Lam Akol Ajawin, alternate member of SPLM-SPLA Political-Military High Command and zonal commander of northern Upper Nile, raided Malakal town garrison on 21 November 1987 and killed three enemy soldiers. One regimental sergeant major, Majuk Deng, military No 577410, of wildlife forces, was captured. [passage omitted]

In another development, two trucks carrying Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi's troops were blown up by landmines at Wau Shilluk and (Malakal Cchalo) villages on 4 and 7 December 1987, respectively. Correspondent says that many soldiers of Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi were either killed or wounded. [passage omitted]

Army Accused of 'Atrocities'

EA162117 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 16 Dec 87

[Excerpt] Reports from southern Blue Nile say the Al-Sadiq soldiers committed a lot of atrocities against the civilian population as they were withdrawing from (Mafao) and Kurmuk areas following their defeat by SPLA forces of the Axis Two under the direct command of Commander Salva Kiir Mayar Dit, member of SPLM-SPLA Political-Military High Command and deputy chief of staff for operations and security.

According to reports, one of Al-Sadiq Al-Mahdi's commanding officers, Brigadier Muhammad Abbas al-Amin, when he was withdrawing from (Mafao) on the 3d of December 1987, ordered his soldiers to arrest and kill the chief of (Mafao) area and his family on the pretext that they were SPLA supporters. Brig Muhammad Abbas al-Amin is known to be one of the commanders of the most sectarian brigade of the Sudanese Army called [word

indistinct] Al-Aswad, meaning Operation Do-Away-With-the-Blacks. The same atrocities were committed by Colonel Ibrahim Bakhit Rizq between Kurmuk, Mayak, and (Solt) areas when he and his troops were fleeing from Kurmuk on the 12th of November 1987.

The official SPLM-SPLA spokesman has condemned the killing of the civilians in cold blood by Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi's troops in southern Blue Nile. In a statement to Radio SPLA correspondent at the SPLA general headquarters, the spokesman said that Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi's commanding officers understand that the role of the army in any country is to protect the civilians, but not to kill them in cold blood.

Meanwhile, correspondent for the Radio SPLA in Southern Blue Nile says that the citizens who had earlier fled their homes to the bush for fear of being killed by the Sadiq army have begun returning to their homes in (Mafao), Wadega, Mayak, and other surrounding villages, and that the SPLA forces are mobilizing others who have not returned to come and resettle in their respective areas. Our correspondent observed that the citizens in Southern Blue Nile are the most backward and neglected people, dressed in animal skins, although the Khartoum rulers talk loud of them being their people. [passage omitted]

Inter-Gulf Affairs

Upcoming GCC Summit Agenda Reviewed

LD191040 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0931 GMT 19 Dec 87

[Text] Kuwait, 19 Dec (KUNA)—Gulf diplomatic sources today told AL-ANBA' that the GCC summit conference scheduled to be held in Riyadh on the 26th of this month will discuss security and military issues concerning GCC countries.

The sources told the newspaper that the leaders will discuss the draft security and military cooperation treaty in its final form, as submitted by the GCC General Secretariat. The treaty contains the recommendations of the interior and defense ministers for providing a comprehensive, defensive shield for the countries of the region. It also contains recommendations for the establishment of a military cooperation program with a greater extent than the Peninsula Shield Force, which has successfully completed its mission.

The sources also revealed that the summit agenda includes discussion of the situation in the Gulf region as a whole if efforts to end the Iraq-Iran war, which began 8 years ago last September, fail. The sources pointed out that there are plans to adopt another line in dealing with events. This stand adopts the Kuwaiti view that it is necessary for all GCC members to confront any aggressive practices against any GCC member, in addition to a commitment to the current international efforts to stop the war and reestablish regional security and stability.

The summit conference is normally preceded by a preparatory meeting of foreign ministers to draw up the agenda, explain alterations, suggest new developments, and prepare recommendations.

The GCC consists of Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar, Oman, and the UAE.

Iranian Gunboats Attack Danish Supertanker

JN190713 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0700 GMT 19 Dec 87

[Text] Iranian gunboats attacked a Danish supertanker off the Iranian island of Abu Musa in the southern Gulf this morning.

According to Gulf shipping sources, after the attack ended the captain of the Danish tanker called for assistance from a British vessel in the area and affirmed that his crew had suffered no casualties.

Bahrain

Iran's Lavasani Gives Amir Khamene'i Message

JN192000 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1900 GMT 19 Dec 87

[Text] Manama, 19 Dec (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh 'Isa ibn Salman Al Khalifah, amir of Bahrain, has received a message from Iranian President 'Ali Khamene'i on bilateral relations and the latest regional developments.

Mohammad Hoseyn Lavasani, director general of the Political Directorate at the Iranian Foreign Ministry, delivered the message to the amir during a meeting in Bahrain this evening.

The meeting was attended by His Highness Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah, transport minister, and His Highness Shaykh Muhammad ibn Khalifah Al Khalifah, interior minister. The Iranian envoy arrived earlier today from Doha on a 2-day visit to Bahrain within the framework of a tour of a number of regional states.

Note to Foreign Minister

JN201101 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0910 GMT 20 Dec 87

[Text] Manama, 20 Dec (WAKH)—Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad ibn Mubarak Al Khalifah has received a written message from Iranian Foreign Minister Dr 'Ali Akbar Velayati on bilateral relations and current regional developments.

The message was delivered by Mohammad Hoseyn Lavasani, director general of the Political Department at the Iranian Foreign Ministry, when the foreign minister received him in Manama this morning.

The meeting was attended by 'Ali Ibrahim al-Mahrus, director of the Political Directorate at the Foreign Ministry; Ya'qub Yusuf, Bahraini charge d'affaires in Tehran; and Ahmed Jozadani [name as received], Iranian charge d'affaires in Bahrain.

Kuwait

'Savage' Israeli Suppression of Gaza Condemned

LD202236 Kuwait KUNA in English 1508 GMT 20 Dec 87

[Text] Kuwait, Dec 20 (KUNA)—The Kuwaiti Government Sunday strongly condemned Israel's "savage and inhuman" suppression of anti-occupation activities in the West Bank and Gaza and reiterated its support for the Palestinian people's legitimate rights.

State Minister for Cabinet Affairs Rashid 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Rashid said after a cabinet meeting the government was following with concern the development of the situation in the occupied Arab territories after the uprising against the Israeli authorities.

He announced that government offices and private and public businesses will observe a one-minute work stoppage Monday noon in mourning the lives of Palestinians killed in the now 13-day-old revolt against the occupation.

The move, he said was also intended to reflect Kuwait's support for the "heroic" Palestinian uprising against the Israeli occupation.

He said the cabinet strongly condemned the occupation authorities' "savage and inhuman practices which constitute flagrant breach of human rights."

The government hails the steadfastness of the Arab Palestinian people and calls on the world community, "particularly the U.N. Security Council" to bear its responsibility for halting the brutal massacres being committed by the Zionist occupiers, Al-Rashid said.

The cabinet underlined the appeal of his highness the amir, chairman of the Organization of Islamic Conference, to all leaders of Islamic states to take all possible effective actions to support the Palestinian people's struggle for regaining their legitimate rights.

The cabinet reiterated Kuwait's "firm conviction...that Palestinian territories and the Middle East region will not experience peace and stability so long as the Palestinian question, which has been and will continue to be the core of the region's conflict, remained unsolved," he added.

PDRY

Government Approves Development Plan, Budget

EA181046 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 17 Dec 87

[Excerpts] The Council of Ministers, chaired by Prime Minister Yasin Sa'id Numan, today completed its agenda at its regular meeting. The Council of Ministers examined the plan for the 3d year of the 5-year plan for economic and social development during the years 1986-90, as well as the general and estimated draft budgets for state and public corporations during fiscal 1988. [passage omitted]

At the conclusion of its meeting, the council approved the 1988 draft development plan. It also gave its approval to the general state budget and the estimated budget for state corporations for 1988.

Qatar

Iran's Lavasani Gives Amir Khamene'i Message

LD192231 Tehran IRNA in English 1730 GMT 19 Dec 87

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 19, IRNA—Qatar ruler Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad al Thani Saturday stressed on the need for frequent meetings between Iranian and Qatari officials, in order to solve problems besetting the region.

Shaykh Khalifah made the remark in a meeting with visiting Foreign Ministry Director-General for Political Affairs Mohammad Hoseyn Lavasani who is in Doha with a message from President 'Ali Khamane'i. Lavasani will confer with several officials of that Persian Gulf state.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Khamene'i's message emphasised on the need for withdrawal of all foreign forces from the Persian Gulf.

Lavasani told the Qatari ruler that the U.S. pressures on the U.N. Security Council and Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, betray Washington's support for Iraq in its imposed war on Islamic Iran.

The Islamic Republic will continue the Iraqi-imposed war until the aggressor is overthrown, he said emphatically.

Reportage on Visit by Saudi Crown Prince

Arrives 19 Dec

JN191113 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1107 GMT 19 Dec 87

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Dec (INA)—His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, Saudi crown prince, deputy prime minister, and head of the National Guard, arrived in Baghdad today leading a delegation on a visit of several days to Iraq. The guest delegation was accorded an official reception. RCC Vice Chairman 'Izzat Ibrahim led those receiving the Saudi guests. RCC members Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Sa'dun Shakir, Hasan 'Ali, and National Assembly Speaker Sa'dun Hammadi were present to welcome Prince 'Abdallah. Ministers, the ambassadors of some Arab countries, and the Saudi ambassador in Baghdad also participated in the reception.

The delegation accompanying Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz comprises Shaykh 'Abd al-'Aziz ibn 'Abd al-Muhsin al-Tuwajiri, deputy chief of the National Guard; Shaykh Nasir ibn Hamad al-Rajihi, chief of his highness the crown prince's office; 'Abd al-Muhsin ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Tuwayjiri, adviser at the crown prince's office; Hamad ibn Salih al-Humudi, chief of the foreign affairs desk at the crown prince's office; and Muhammad ibn 'Abd al-Rahman al-Tubayshi, royal protocol official.

Received by Saddam Husayn

JN192016 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1600 GMT 19 Dec 87

[Excerpts] His Excellency President Saddam Husayn has received His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, Saudi crown prince, deputy prime minister, and head of the Saudi Arabian National Guard. During their meeting, they discussed the existing strong fraternal bilateral relations and ways to enhance them in all fields, as well as the Arab situation in general.

Iraq was represented at the meeting by 'Izzat Ibrahim, RCC vice chairman; Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister; Staff General 'Adnan Khayrallah, deputy commander in chief of the Armed Forces and defense minister; Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Sa'dun Shakir, RCC member; Latif Nusayyif Jasim, culture and information minister; Ahmad Husayn, director of the president's office; 'Abdallah Fadil, minister of awqaf and religious affairs; and the president's secretary.

For fraternal Saudi Arabia, the meeting was attended by the delegation accompanying His Royal Highness Crown Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz; Shaykh 'Abd al-'Aziz ibn 'Abd al-Muhsin al-Tuwayjiri, deputy chief of the Saudi Arabian National Guard; Nasir al-Rajihi, director of his royal highness the crown prince's office; 'Abd al-Muhsin ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Tuwayjiri, an adviser at the crown prince's office; and the Saudi ambassador in Baghdad.

His Excellency President Saddam Husayn hosted a luncheon banquet in honor of His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz. The banquet was attended by members of both delegations. A closed meeting was then held between His Excellency President Saddam Husayn and His Highness Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz. [passage omitted]

In a statement to INA, His Royal Highness Crown Prince 'Abdallah expressed pleasure over his visit to Iraq and reiterated the depth of the existing fraternal relations binding the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to Iraq. The Saudi crown prince also voiced pleasure over his meeting with His Excellency President Saddam Husayn. He extended his best wishes of well-being and security to the Iraqi people and their leadership.

Makes Statement, Departs

JN201241 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1123 GMT 20 Dec 87

[Text] Baghdad, 20 Dec (INA)—Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, Saudi crown prince, deputy prime minister, and chief of the Saudi Arabian National guard, left Baghdad today at the conclusion of a 2-day visit to Iraq. Seeing him off were RCC members Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Sa'dun Shakir; Hasan 'Ali; ministers; a number of Arab ambassadors; and the Saudi Arabian ambassador in Baghdad.

His Highness Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz described the results of his talks with President Saddam Husayn as fruitful, gratifying, and heralding the well-being of the Arab nation.

In a predeparture statement to INA, his highness the Saudi crown prince, deputy prime minister, and chief of Saudi National guard said: We discussed current Arab issues and ways to achieve glory and victory for the Iraqi Army and people.

President Saddam Husayn received His Highness Prince 'Abdallah and the delegation accompanying him yesterday.

A bilateral meeting was held between President Saddam Husayn and His Highness Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz. During the meeting, they discussed the close brotherly relations between the two countries and ways to promote them in all fields, as well as the Arab situation in general.

The accompanying delegation comprised Shaykh 'Abd al-'Aziz ibn 'Abd al-Muhsin al-Tuwayjiri, deputy chief of the National Guard; Shaykh Nasir ibn Hamad al-Rajihi, head of his highness the crown prince's office; 'Abd

al-Muhsin ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Tuwayjiri, adviser at his highness' office; Hamad ibn Salih al-Humudi, head of special affairs; and Muhammad ibn 'Abd al-Rahman al-Tubayshi, under secretary for royal protocol.

PLO's 'Arafat Ends Visit, Departs 20 Dec

JN201207 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0815 GMT 20 Dec 87

[Text] Baghdad, 20 Dec (INA)—PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat left Baghdad today following a visit of several days to Iraq. During his visit, President Saddam Husayn received Yasir 'Arafat and stressed Iraq's support for the Palestinian Arab people in their just struggle under the PLO, the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, in confronting the Zionist occupation.

Reportage on Gulf War Combat Operations

9 Gunboats 'Pounded'

JN181454 Baghdad INA in English 1435 GMT 18 Dec 87

[Text] Baghdad, Dec 18. INA—Nine Iranian enemy gunboats were pounded and forced to flee while attempting to approach the Iraqi Deep [Al-'Amiq] Terminal, an Iraqi military spokesman said here today. In ground fighting, five enemy troops were killed and 14 infantry bunkers, three ammunition dumps, a machingegun, and four vehicles were destroyed in various front sectors over the past 24 hours, the spokesman said.

Communique No 2,954

JN181700 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1625 GMT 18 Dec 87

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Dec (INA)—The Iraqi Armed Forces have destroyed 14 Iranian infantry positions and 4 military vehicles during their activities on the frontlines against the Iranian forces in the past 24 hours. The Armed Forces General Command Communique No 2,954 issued here tonight said that our forces had inflicted new losses on the enemy in personnel, weapons, and hardware. The communique also said that the Al-'Amiq Port force, north of the Arabian Gulf, pounded nine Iranian gunboats, which had attempted to approach the port, and forced them to flee. The following is the text of the General Command communique:

Communique No 2,954 issued by the Armed Forces General Command. In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. With firm determination and belief in God's victory, our victorious troops continued their activities last night and today, inflicting more losses on our country's enemies as follows:

1. In the I Army Corps northern sector, two vehicles and five infantry positions were destroyed and one ammunition dump was blown up.

2. In the II Army Corps central sector, four scoundrels were killed and one infantry position and one observation post were destroyed.

3. In the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah, one four-barrel machinegun was destroyed and one ammunition dump was blow up.

4. In the IV Army Corps sector east of Maysan, one enemy soldier was killed, one vehicle and one observation post were destroyed, and one ammunition dump was blown up.

5. In the VI Army Corps sector east of Tigris, seven infantry positions were destroyed and one large vehicle was destroyed.

6. In the VII Army Corps sector one infantry position was destroyed and its occupants were killed.

7. Nine enemy gunboats attempted to approach Al-'Amiq Port. The valiant port force pounded the enemy boats, forcing them to flee.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 18 December 1987

Communique No 2,955

JN191752 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 19 Dec 87

[Communique No 2,955, issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 19 December]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our valiant Armed Forces have continued their heroic and holy war to defend the homeland's sovereignty. They are inflicting further losses on the Zionist Khomeyniites through their combat activities which were carried out last night and today. The details of these losses are as follows:

1. A bulldozer and a shovel [preceding word in English] were damaged in the I Army Corps northern sector.

2. A medium machinegun was destroyed and its crewmen killed in the I Special Army Corps sector—the Allahu Akbar Forces.

3. An enemy soldier was killed and an infantry position was destroyed and its occupants killed in the II Army Corps central sector.

4. Five observation posts were destroyed and their occupants wounded in the IV Army Corps sector east of Maysan.

5. Three infantry positions were destroyed and a large vehicle was destroyed in the VI Army Corps sector east of the Tigris.

6. Our units in the VII Corps sector inflicted the following losses on the aggressors: three scoundrels killed; a single-barreled machinegun destroyed; a vehicle burned and destroyed; and an ammunition dump destroyed.

7. Ten enemy boats attempted to approach Al-'Amiq Port last night. The heroic port force confronted them and forced them to flee.

[signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 19 December 1987

Communique No 2,956

JN201023 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 0905 GMT 20 Dec 87

[Communique No 2,956 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 20 December]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. God is great. Victory is yours alone, O glorious Iraqis, while you are waging the battle of dignity and honor—the glorious Al-Qadisiyah battle of Saddam—in which you are heroically defending your land, holy shrines, honor, sovereignty, and the right to build your life in a way guaranteeing prosperity for you and comfortable, secure, and free lives for the generations after you.

On this blessed day, your Armed Forces—commanders, officers, and soldiers—reiterate the pledge in both words and deeds that they will fight the enemy with the spirit of our dear ancestors and with the resolve of the new Iraqi citizen. These Armed Forces all want to belong to the faithful soldiers in whom their great leader Saddam Husayn takes pride and is proud of before the world peoples. They want to be a source of pride for their Arab nation and the men, women, and children of Iraq. Every fighter pledges before God to attack the dens of charlatans and renegades wherever they are, to defeat the attacks of the cursed Khomeyniites, to pursue their remnants, and to chop off their heads. Every single man of those brave, faithful, loyal fighters wants to display his bravery, valor, and firmness as a soldier behind the most honorable and greatest leader—hero Saddam Husayn—in defense of great Iraq—land, people, principles, revolution, and historic leadership.

O men and women of Iraq. O men of our valiant Armed Forces. O brothers in Arabism. As is customary for the charlatan agents of Zionism ruling in Iran, from time to time they carry out a thoughtless, reckless adventure in the hope of some gain to continue feeding their propaganda machine and their cheap charlatanry.

In an attempt to cover up their impotence, to pretend to have false strength and imagined capability, and to affirm their hatred of Iraq and its people, as well as being an expression of their rejection in practice of the will of the international community on the need to establish peace, at 2245 [1945 GMT] on 19 December the scoundrel surrogates of Zionism and its goals threw in a force estimated at two brigades, supported by tanks, commandos, and special forces, in the direction of our forces in the Al-Zubaydat area in the sector of the heroic IV Army Corps, the maker of glorious and honorable deeds in the defense of Iraq against the wave of backwardness and savagery.

Our heroic forces, the forces of Sharhabil ibn Hasna', which are responsible for the sector, confronted the enemy force. A battle ensued between two of our heoric formations and the enemy forces. It was the way the men of Iraq wanted, a heroic epic in which your sons dealt punishing blows to the enemy forces. The litter of their fragmented bodies became piled up. Only a small number of the enemy force survived, and it fled. The enemy called for help and used all its resources in the area to evacuate the wounded and dead. To hell [with them] and a miserable destiny.

At 1020 [0720 GMT] today, the enemy's defeated forces were almost totally annihilated, the enemy's attack completely destroyed, and heavy losses inflicted on the enemy remnants, weapons, and equipment. A number of enemy personnel were captured. The situation was completely decided in favor of our victorious forces.

The brave infantry soldiers, the valiant commandos, the heroic men of the special forces, the outstanding men of the armor force, and the courageous men of the artillery took part in repulsing the enemy attack and harvesting the scoundrels. They turned the ground into flames beneath the invaders and obliterated them.

It is an oath by men that the vile Khomeyniites will face the same destiny whatever the strength of the force with which they attack and on every sector and at any time. Seven years of heroic fighting by the Iraqis are sufficient to confirm that the victory has been decided once and for all in favor of the proud Iraqis, the advocates of justice and peace, from a position of strength. Shame and disgrace to Khomeyni and his followers. Here is yet further proof to them that falsehood and charlatanry cannot change the facts.

May God bless you, O brave men of our heroic IV Army Corps—commanders, officers, and men. May God bless you, O splendid men of the Sharhabil forces— commanders, officers, and men. You deserve to take pride in such a sure victory and the approval of God, the leader, and the people. Long live our noble people! Long live our great leader Saddam Husayn! Long live our valiant Armed Forces! Praise be to God who grants victory to those who support Him. He is the best supporter.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 20 December 1987

Iranian Losses Detailed

JN201546 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1518 GMT 20 Dec 87

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 20 Dec (INA)—The Iraqi forces have destroyed seven infantry positions, two rocket-launchers, one ammunition dump, and one shovel [preceding word in English]. They also burned one vehicle, destroyed one tank, and either killed or wounded the Iranian enemy personnel occupying them. In a statement to INA this evening, an Iraqi military spokesman announced that Iraqi forces had destroyed five infantry positions and one rocket-launcher and either killed or wounded their occupants in the northern sector.

They also blew up one ammunition dump in the I Special Army Corps sector and destroyed one rocket-launcher and one shovel in the operations sector east of Al-Basrah. The spokesman added that the Iranians had lost one vehicle and two infantry positions in the operational sector east of the Tigris while they lost one tank and its crew on the VII Army Corps front. [passage omitted]

Communique No 2,957

JN201756 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1710 GMT 20 Dec 87

[Communique No 2,957 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 20 December]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our victorious Armed Forces continued their combat activities last night and today. They inflicted new losses on the tyrannical Khomeyniites as follows:

1. Five infantry positions and one command post were destroyed and their occupants were either killed or wounded in the I Army Corps northern sector.

2. One ammunition dump was blown up in the I Special Army Corps sector—the Allahu Akbar Forces.

3. One rocket-launcher and one shovel [preceding word in English] were destroyed in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah.

4. One vehicle was burned and two infantry positions were destroyed in the VI Army Corps sector east of the Tigris.

5. One enemy tank was destroyed and its crew killed on the VII Army Corps front.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 20 December 1987

Unrest in Territories; Strikes, Protests Staged

Arabs Urge Strike 21 Dec

TA181845 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 18 Dec 87

[Text] Representatives of the Arab public in Israel have decided to shut down the whole Arab sector on Monday, as a sign of solidarity with residents of the areas. The decision was adopted at a special conference held this afternoon at Shefar'am attended by five Arab Knesset members who are heads of local councils and the heads of institutions and various organizations. They decided to call the 1-day strike as the day of peace, and Arab citizens are requested to hold a 1-minute silence at noon when church bells will be rung. No demonstrations or processions will be held involving a disturbance of public order.

Disturbances in East Jerusalem

TA190929 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 19 Dec 87

[Text] Disturbances and stonethrowing incidents resumed in East Jerusalem this morning. Our correspondent 'Adi Malul reports that seven of the rioters have been detained so far. Youths blocked a road and threw stones at the Al-Tur quarter on top of the Mount of Olives. Stones were thrown at the Mishkenot Haro'im restaurant east of the Armon Hanaziv neighborhood. Heavy damage was caused to part of the restaurant, which was later set on fire. There is a commercial and school strike in the whole of East Jerusalem.

2 Police Injured; 25 Detained

TA191124 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 19 Dec 87

[Text] Two policemen were injured and 25 people were detained in the course of this morning's riots in East Jerusalem. This was announced by police spokesman Rafi Levi. 'Umar Zaydani, a Jerusalem radio Arabic section correspondent, reports that East Jerusalem school students this morning stoned the police station at Al-'Ayzariyah. The policemen shot in the air in order to disperse the rioters. In addition, young rioters set fire to the fronts of Bank Leumi, Bank Hapoalim, Bank Discount, and Bank Barclays Discount branches in the Salah al-Din Street area. The students also blocked the Salah al-Din street with burning tires and other objects. Municipality tractors removed them. One of the municipality's cars was set on fire. There is a commercial and school strike in East Jerusalem this morning.

Our correspondent 'Adi Malul reports that Italian President Francesco Cossiga is beginning his tour of East Jerusalem now.

Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that there were several attempts to disrupt order in Judaea and Samaria this morning, particularly in Qalqilyah, Ramallah, and Hebron. Reference is to youths' gatherings and stonethrowing. Border policemen had to resort to tear gas to disperse this gathering in Ramallah.

Quiet prevails in Gaza this morning.

Curfew Lifted on Camps 19 Dec

TA192116 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2100 GMT 19 Dec 87

[Excerpt] The curfew that had been imposed on the 'Askar and Balatah refugee camps near Nabulus was lifted tonight. [passage omitted]

19 Dec Events Summarized

TA200536 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 20 Dec 87

[Report by Steve Rodan]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] The violence continued in a line from Nabulus in the north to Hebron in the south. Security forces broke up demonstrations in Nabulus and the nearby refugee camps of Balatah and 'Askar were placed under curfew yesterday. Those curfews were lifted late last night. Outside Ramallah, a soldier was injured during a disturbance at the Al-Jalazun refugee camp. That camp was also placed under curfew.

In Bethlehem, demonstrators set up barricades of rocks and burning tires at the entrances to the town. Soldiers used tear gas to disperse the demonstrators. Disturbances were also reported in Hebron, near the Islamic College, known to security forces as a trouble spot.

In Al-Zahiriyah, south of Hebron, a youngster throwing stones on the road was wounded by Army fire.

On the other hand, the Gaza Strip was reported quiet yesterday. There were some incidents of stonethrowing and demonstrations, but the Army kept its distance and there were no clashes reported.

Peace Rally Held in Tel Aviv

TA200554 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 20 Dec 87

[Text] Several thousand people turned out last night for a demonstration in Tel Aviv against the government's policies in the territories. The police arrested four people at the demonstration. Among those attending the protest was RAKAH Communist Party Knesset Member [MK] Charlie Biton, who charged that he was roughed up by police. However, the police say that MK Biton did not follow police instructions and was unruly. Sabra Chartrand reports on the demonstration:

[Begin recording] [Chartrand] Over 1,000 Israeli Arabs and Jews marched with torches through downtown Tel Aviv last night, shouting: Israel-Palestine—two states for

two people, and peace—yes, occupation—no. The demonstration was the first following 2 weeks of violent unrest in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, during which 17 Palestinians have died. The marchers joined a Peace Now rally outside the Tel Aviv Museum, where MAPAM Secretary General El'azar Granot and Citizens Rights Movement MK Shulamit Aloni told them only peace negotiations would give Israel security. Granot called on the Peace Now supporters to continue to demonstrate until we give others the right we ask for ourselves. Aloni told the rally Israeli Jews must tackle the Palestinian problem.

[Aloni] Because the Arab question is no more a Palestinian question; it's a Jewish question. It's a moral... it's our problem. If we are going to live here and to be a democracy, by definition we have to recognize the rights of the Palestinians. And as long as they don't have rights and no hope, they will fight. And they will fight, and we'll fight, and it might be the end of all of us.

[Chartrand] Speaking at the rally, representatives of the Gaza Medical Association and the Israeli Arab local authorities called on the government to withdraw immediately from the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The demand for a separate Palestinian state drew a few hecklers to the demonstration, who were quickly shuttled away by police. [end recording]

Commerical Strike in Jerusalem

TA200800 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0730 GMT 20 Dec 87

[Text] There is a commercial and school strike in East Jerusalem this morning, and there were several disturbances throughout Judaea and Samaria. Our correspondent Shlomi Stein reports:

[Begin recording] So far it has been quiet in East Jerusalem this morning, although beefed up police forces from all parts of the country are currently patroling the streets of East Jerusalem. Seven Arabs have been detained on suspicion of trying to incite riots. At around 0400 a bomb exploded under a car on Hapisga Street in the Bayit Vagan neighborhood in the western part of the city. No one was hurt, but the car is a total loss.

Generally, quiet prevails in Judaea and Samaria now, but there were a number of stonethrowing cases, as well as tire burnings and road blocks. Near Al-Duhayshah, stones were hurled at two Israeli vehicles, smashing their windshields. One of the female passengers was slightly injured. The Hebron Islamic College was closed for 2 days on instruction from the acting defense minister in view of the last few days' events there. [end recording]

In the Gaza Strip, the disturbances resumed this morning. A bus transporting workers to Israel was pelted with rocks in Rafah and then, after the workers got off it, set on fire. Barricades and burning tires were spotted both in Gaza and in Khan Yunus. Our correspondent in the south, Shim'on Alqavetz, reports:

[Begin recording] The disturbances and rioting in the Gaza Strip towns resumed this morning. Dozens of youths set up roadblocks along major streets and set tires on fire. So far the security forces have avoided clashes with the rioters. There were minor disturbances in Khan Yunus, Dayr al-Balah, and the Shaja'iyah quarter this morning. At 0630, rioters stoned a bus that was transporting local employees to work in Israel at (Silco) Square in Rafah. The driver and the passengers escaped, and the rioters set the bus on fire, burning it completely. The security forces arrived at the scene of the action swiftly, and they are now trying to restore order.

Over the last 2 days, more than 50 indictments have been submitted to the Gaza military court against inhabitants of the Gaza Strip towns who were charged with organizing riots and participating in disruptions of the public order. Many of them have already been tried and been sentenced to prison terms ranging from 1 to 8 months plus heavy fines. At any rate, reinforced security forces are deploying throughout the Gaza Strip to preserve order. [end recording]

Official Casualty Toll

TA201012 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 20 Dec 87

[Text] In reaction to various statistics reported both in Israel and in other places around the world, the IDF spokesman issued the following communique: According to examinations and the data in the possession of the IDF spokesman, the number of casualties in the Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza riots over the past 10 days is 15. These figures reflect the number of people killed by shots fired by the IDF. In the Gaza Strip, 11 were killed; the other 4 were killed in Judaea and Samaria.

Curfew Reimposed on Camps

TA201129 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 20 Dec 87

[Text] About an hour ago, the security forces imposed a curfew on the 'Askar and Farah refugee camps in Samaria following cases of disturbances and stonethrowing. This is reported by our correspondent Arye Gus. A youth from the village of Qabatiyah in Samaria was wounded after throwing a Molotov cocktail at a Border Police patrol. A Molotov cocktail was thrown at an IDF patrol in Hebron this morning, but no one was hurt.

There were commercial strikes, stones were thrown, and tires were burned in several towns in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza District this morning. The Gaza district Civilian Administration is pursuing its efforts to calm moods down, and its representatives will hold meetings with mayors and other personalities in the towns and villages.

IDF Wounds Gaza Youth

TA201149 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1130 GMT 20 Dec 87

[Excerpts] A 15-year old inhabitant of the Shaja'iyah refugee camp in the Gaza Strip sustained slight leg injuries from bullets fired by IDF soldiers on patrol. The soldiers fired after being attacked by stones and metal bars. A Gaza Strip resident tried to snatch the personal weapon of a border policeman. The latter fired into the air, hurting no one.

These are the most recent events in the Gaza Strip. Updating events regarding Judaea and Samaria is our correspondent Shlomi Stein:

First to Jerusalem: Since last night, the police in the capital continued to detain people suspected of inciting disturbances in the eastern part of the city yesterday. So far, 60 such detainees have been rounded up, and this could perhaps explain the relative quiet that has prevailed in East Jerusalem today. At the same time, the road leading to the Shu'fat refugee camp has been blocked. The barricade has been removed and the policemen are currently restoring order in the camp by use of tear gas.

There is a general commercial and school strike in the Old City: Everything is closed, the streets are empty. Only policemen and Border Police personnel can be seen at almost every corner of the foggy and wet streets. [passage omitted]

An Israeli youth was hurt in Ramallah from a stone thrown at the car he was driving. [passage omitted]

5 Wounded in Farah Camp

TA201412 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1330 GMT 20 Dec 87

[Text] A curfew was imposed at noon today on the Al-Fari'ah refugee camp in Samaria following a violent disturbance there. Dozens of local inhabitants attacked an IDF patrol with stones and iron bars. The patrol used rubber bullets and tear gas, but since their lives were still in danger the soldiers fired in order to extricate themselves. As a result of the shooting, four local residents suffered slight leg wounds. Another local resident was wounded slightly by rubber bullets.

Classes Cancelled in W. Bank

TA201548 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 20 Dec 87

[Text] The Civilian Administration in Judaea and Samaria is cancellin classes in regional schools tomorrow and the day after. About 800 government and private schools with more than 260,000 students will be affected. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that this move was adopted to decrease the number of disturbances during the Israeli Arabs' solidarity strike and the UN debate on the situation in the territories.

At the same time, our correspondent reports that municipalities and institutes in the territories responded to the Israeli Arabs' initiative for a complete solidarity strike with a call to strike there, too. The Tulkarm municipality issued such a call this morning.

Protest in Arab Town 20 Dec

TA201555 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 20 Dec 87

[Text] A HADASH-sponsored demonstration in solidarity with the inhabitants of the territories was staged in Umm al-Fahm this afternoon. The demonstrators had obtained prior approval. The demonstrators first marched through Umm al-Fahm shouting slogans condemning the government's policy and calling on the IDF to leave Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip.

The village of Al-Taiyiba decided to join the strike in the Arab sector tomorrow. Leaflets were handed out to the villagers this morning calling on them to maintain order during the strike. 'Abd al-Hamid Latif, head of the Al-Taiyiba local council, asked the Israeli police not to intervene in maintaining order in the village tomorrow. According to him, the members of the local council will keep the peace.

Kafr Qasim has not yet decided whether to join the strike. Leaflets on behalf of HADASH were distributed in the village this morning calling on the residents to strike, but the deputy chairman of the local council said he believes the strike will only be partial.

Hebron University Closed

TA202027 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 20 Dec 87

[Text] Major General 'Amram Mitzna', the commander of the Central Command, today ordered the Hebron Islamic University closed for a month. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that the order was issued because there were disturbances in the university yesterday, including attempts to attack soldiers.

No Intention To Close Mosques

TA202125 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2100 GMT 20 Dec 87

[Text] Large forces are deploying in the Gaza Strip for fear that riots will take place there tomorrow in connection with the strike by Israeli Arabs. Our correspondent Sheli Yehimovitz reports that soon in the Gaza Strip there will be additional detentions of people who are responsible for inflaming tempers and who took part in the incidents.

A senior military source said that Gaza Strip mosques located on major roads have turned into centers of rioting. Residents throw Molotov cocktails and stones from them, taking advantage of the fact that the IDF does not enter mosques. The military source made it clear that despite this there is no intention to close the mosques down.

Molotov Cocktail in Hebron

TA200913 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 20 Dec 87

[Excerpt] A Molotov cocktail was hurled at an IDF patrol in Hebron this morning. No one was hurt and no damage was caused. The security forces have launched combing operations. [passage omitted]

Arab Sector Strikes 21 Dec

TA210541 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 21 Dec 87

[Text] The Arab sector in Israel is expressing solidarity with the residents of the territories by means of a school and work strike today. Our correspondent Yo'el Dar notes that the heads of the Arab villages called on the population to protest in a quiet and orderly way.

Schools will also be closed down in Judaea and Samaria today, in this case at the initiative of the authorities. The Civilian Administration has decided to close down the schools for fear of disturbances.

Territories Urged To Strike

TA210554 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 21 Dec 87

[Text] Roadblocks were erected this morning on several roads leading from the territories to Israel. This is reported by our correspondent Arye Gus. Security sources view this as an attempt to prevent workers from the territories from leaving for Israel. Pamphlets have been distributed in the territories calling on the inhabitants to join the strike by Israeli Arabs. Municipalities in the territories have also issued similar calls.

A stone was thrown last night at a No 25 bus heading downtown from the Neve Ya'aqov neighborhood, north of Jerusalem. The windshield was shattered and the driver was wounded and taken to the hospital. In the Abu Dis neighborhood east of Jerusalem, a bus was set on fire, but there were no injuries.

Police Station Burned

TA210644 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 21 Dec 87

[Text] The police station opposite the Al-Duhayshah refugee camp has been burned. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that the station was empty at the time. This morning tires were burned and roadblocks were erected near Al-Duhayshah. Roadblocks were also erected on the Latrun road and near the village of Al-'Ayzariyah, east of Jerusalem. The security forces removed the roadblocks and traffic is now flowing smoothly.

Commercial Strike in Gaza

TA210714 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 21 Dec 87

[Text] The 60,000 workers from the Gaza Strip did not leave for work in Israel today. A complete commercial strike is under way in the Gaza Strip today. The ITIM correspondent reports that tires were burned on the main streets of the Gaza Strip towns this morning, as well as at the approaches to the towns. Oil was poured on the roads, apparently to prevent vehicles from setting out for Israel.

Al-Duhayshah Youth Wounded

TA210830 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 21 Dec 87

[Text] A youth was wounded in the leg from shots fired by security forces when a group of demonstrators from the Al-Duhayshah refugee camp threw stones at vehicles passing near the camp. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that the police station in Al-Duhayshah was set on fire last night, but there were no casualties.

Disturbances are also continuing in Jerusalem and its environs. Our correspondent Moshe Nussbaum reports that near Bayt Hanina in north Jerusalem, rioters threw stones at a No 25 bus en route to Neve Ya'aqov; one of the passengers was wounded. Our correspondent notes that roads were blocked by garbage cans and burning tires at various locations. Police had to use tear gas to disperse a crowd near the village of Al-'Ayzariyah. Approximately 150 students gathered in Abu Ghaush and stoned Israeli cars.

Golan Druze Join Strike

TA210943 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 21 Dec 87

[Text] The Golan Heights Druze are participating in today's strike by Israeli Arabs. Our correspondent Yo'el Dar reports that teachers came to work this morning, but all of the students stayed away. A march is currently being held in the village of Majdal Shams as a show of solidarity with the residents of the territories.

Janin Youth Shot, Wounded

TA211015 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 21 Dec 87

[Text] A Janin youth was shot and wounded by IDF soldiers after he threw a Molotov cocktail at a Border Police patrol. This is reported by our correspondent Arye Gus. A curfew was imposed on the Tulkarm refugee camp this morning following riots

200 Arabs Demonstrate in Yafo

TA211214 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 21 Dec 87

[Report by Gay Rolnik]

[Text] A crowd of about 200 local Arabs is now gathered on Yefet and Haharuv Streets in Yafo. At around 1100, local residents started assembling and throwing stones at cars on Yefet Street and Yerushalayim Boulevard. Police forces present at the site dispersed the crowd. The policemen found it difficult to make arrests as the stonethrowers moved from street to street.

About 1/2 hour ago, the atmosphere in the place became increasingly heated as the police began making arrests. The police have so far arrested eight residents.

Large police and Border Police forces are currently deployed in Yafo, where about 200 locals are still gathered, singing nationalistic Arab songs.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 1100 GMT on 21 December reports minor disturbances in Nazareth, saying that local police are "forcibly dispersing the stonethrowers, using tear gas."]

5 Casualties in Janin

TA211225 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 21 Dec 87

[Text] Security forces have shot and killed a Janin resident and wounded four others. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that the incident occurred after five Molotov cocktails were thrown at a Border Police vehicle and apparently also at an Israeli vehicle. According to initial information, an Israeli citizen was also wounded. No additional details are available at present. The security forces are investigating the incident.

Bethlehem Christmas Fete Off

TA211235 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 21 Dec 87

[Text] Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that the Judaea and Samaria workers did not leave for work in Israel this morning. There were many disturbances aside from the incident in Janin, but these were not as violent as last week's disturbances. The Al-Jalazun, Al-Fari'ah, and Tulkarm refugee camps are all under curfew after youths erected roadblocks and threw stones at IDF soldiers.

Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj has canceled the traditional Christmas eve reception for the first time in 20 years. He announced, however, that the religious ceremonies will be held as usual.

There were many disturbances in East Jerusalem this morning, and the police detained several suspects.

2 Arabs Killed in Samaria

TA211550 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 21 Dec 87

[Text] Two Arab inhabitants were killed this afternoon during a disturbance in Tubas village in Samaria. Our correspondent Arye Gus says that an initial investigation shows that a mob hurled Molotov cocktails, stones, metal objects, and anything they found at an IDF patrol. The soldiers were forced to open fire to extricate themselves. This is how the two inhabitants were killed. Security forces are investigating the circumstances.

One inhabitant of Janin was killed and another was seriously wounded this afternoon by IDF shots after a group of youths hurled Molotov cocktails at an Israeli vehicle, injuring the driver.

Our correspondent Moshe Nussbaum reports that Jerusalem and its environs are quiet now. In today's riots 28 people were arrested.

The main 'Afula-Hadera road, near the Umm al-Fahm Junction, has been reopened to traffic. Our correspondent Yo'el Dar reports that four policemen were slightly injured while dispersing a mass demonstration. Thirteen demonstrators were detained for questioning.

Key Gaza Traffic Accident Caused by Negligence

TA192040 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 19 Dec 87

[Text] As it may be recalled, the riots in the Gaza Strip began in the wake of a road accident in which four Arabs from the Gaza Strip were killed and four others were seriously injured.

Our police affairs correspondent reports that the investigation of the fatal accident, in which an Israeli driver of a tractor trailer was involved, was completed today. A spokesman for the Police Southern District told our correspondent that according to the investigation's findings the accident occurred due to the driver's recklessness. The driver will soon be brought to trial on charges of manslaughter due to negligence. The spokesman also pointed out that it has emerged from the investigation that the driver had no intention of causing the death of Arabs and that the incident is in no way related to the attacks on Israelis in the Gaza Strip.

As may be recalled, rumors had spread in Gaza alleging that the driver of the truck had intentionally caused the accident following attacks on Israelis in Gaza.

Cabinet Discusses Situation in Territories

TA201122 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 20 Dec 87

[Text] The debate on the disturbances in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza is continuing in the Cabinet. Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir announced that he will not raise the proposal that a minister be dispatched to Egypt for a discussion.

At the beginning of the session, Prime Minister Shamir, Minister Weizman, Minister Bar-Lev, and Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Dan Shomron reviewed events in the territories and the security forces' operations over the weekend.

A debate ensued, and Minister Moda'i attacked the foreign minister and the defense minister for being absent at this time. Deputy Prime Minister David Levi said that we must take action on issues on which there is a consensus and announce that we object to a Palestinian state.

Minister Yosef Shapira criticized the instruction given to IDF soldiers to refrain from reacting to stonethrowing incidents. He also complained about the Israeli media, claiming that it is biased and provides one-sided reportage.

The above was reported by our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami, who added that Minister Weizman reported to the Cabinet on the Foreign Ministry's recommendations on the territories. The Foreign Ministry's recommendations are that the Cabinet formulate an official communique on the situation, thereby providing guidelines for Israel's representations abroad.

Statement Issued on Unrest

TA201740 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 20 Dec 87

[Text] Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Dan Shomron opened the Cabinet session. He told the ministers that the repercussions of the riots in the territories had backfired in the international arena, becoming an element preventing an end to the disturbances. This was in contrast to initial evaluations. Shomron said the Army does not pull the trigger lightly and that it is the most senior ranks in the area that give the orders to open fire.

Shomron also disclosed to the Cabinet members that the IDF is currently investigating new means to improve the measures it follows in dispersing demonstrations in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza.

The prime minister summarized the Cabinet meeting, and this summation was released as an official Cabinet announcement. The announcement contains the following points: The Cabinet is united in its support for the actions of the security forces. The struggle against terrorism and the riots should not be mixed up with the political process. Israeli representatives will continue to explain the circumstances of the events and IDF efforts to prevent casualties. Contact with Egypt in particular will be maintained. Also, Israel is operating in a more restrained way than any other administration in the world faced with similar circumstances. It is sure of its moral strength, including the moral strength of its security forces. These remarks were made by the prime minister in summing up the Cabinet meeting on the riots in the territories.

Shamir for International Conference on Refugees

TA201817 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1730 GMT 20 Dec 87

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir this evening is throwing a ball into the court of European countries, proposing that they apply themselves to solving the problem of refugees in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza. Shamir raised the idea in a meeting with the Italian president this evening. Our correspondent in the Knesset Yinon Shenkar reports on the meeting:

The meeting between Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and Italian President Francesco Cossiga and Italian Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti was postponed from the afternoon to the evening and moved to the prime minister's residence in Jerusalem.

Yitzhaq Shamir, who is aware of the Italian positions supporting the international conference proposed by Shim'on Peres, is launching a new move this evening, throwing a ball into the court of the European countries. Instead of dealing with the international conference on peace in the Middle East, Shamir suggests that his Italian guests cooperate with the other European countries in convening an international conference for bringing about an end to the disgrace of the refugee camps, as he put it.

The prime minister emphasized to President Cossiga that in the past Israel has tried more than once to move the refugees to permanent dwellings, but this did not materialize due to opposition by the Arab countries and the Palestinians, who view the refugees as a propaganda tool. Israel is prepared, at any time, to make every effort, together with the rich oil countries, to resolve the distress of the Arab refugees, the prime minister emphasized.

During the meeting with Shamir, the Italian president repeated his own and his country's concern about events in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza. He also expressed regret about the loss of life there. The prime minister told his guests that the Israeli security forces follow strict instructions aimed at preventing casualties. We must solve the problem through direct negotiations for peace even tonight. I am prepared to start peace negotiations with any Arab country that wishes to do so, Yitzhaq Shamir declared during the meeting that ended about 30 minutes ago.

Egypt Protests Incidents; Weizman, Ghali Talk

TA200611 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0600 GMT 20 Dec 87

[Text] Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid has sent a message to the prime minister, demanding that Israel cease what he called the repressive measures in the territories. Yesterday Minister 'Ezer Weizman held a telephone conversation with Butrus Ghali, Egyptian minister of state for foreign affairs.

Our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports that Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres rejected a proposal that an explanatory note be sent on his behalf to Egypt, preferring to examine the possibility of sending a personal messenger to Cairo.

Ambassador to Egypt Summoned

TA201333 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 20 Dec 87

[Text] Israel's ambassador to Cairo was summoned to the Egyptian Foreign Ministry today and presented with Egypt's protest over the situation in the territories. Our Arab affairs correspondent Aharon Barne'a reports that Ambassador Moshe Sason was told that Egypt strongly protests the repressive actions adopted against the inhabitants of the Gaza Strip. Egypt stresses that if these actions are continued they will threaten the peace process in the Middle East.

Shamir Rejects Sending Envoy

TA201509 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1330 GMT 20 Dec 87

[Text] The prime minister today rejected the possibility of sending to Egypt a special emissary of the Government of Israel, noting that in the modern age there is no need for personal emissaries and that the task of explaining Israel's policy in the territories can be accomplished by the existing means. Earlier, Minister 'Ezer Weizman had presented five Foreign Ministry recommendations, the main ones being the sending of an emissary of ministerial rank to Egypt; the release of a special government announcement aimed at calming tempers; augmenting the IDF and police information campaign; and the immediate allocation of additional means to deal with demonstrations without the use of firearms.

Our political affairs correspondent 'Oz Frankel reports that the government did not adopt a decision on these Foreign Ministry recommendations. Deputy Prime Minister David Levi said at the meeting that to hold a political debate now would prove to those who are responsible for the disturbances in the territories that Israel changes its policy under pressure.

Arabs Pressure Egypt

TA201524 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 20 Dec 87

[Text] Several Arab countries are pressuring Egypt to recall its ambassador in Tel Aviv to Cairo. Our Arab affairs correspondent Aharon Barne'a has learned that such messages have reached Cairo indirectly even from Syria and Lebanon, which do not have diplomatic relations with Egypt. A senior source in Cairo who spoke with an Israeli party personage [not further identified] said that many members of the foreign affairs committee of the People's Assembly demand that a recommendation be made to President Mubarak to recall Ambassador Muhammad Basyuni for consultations.

Ghali Terms Ties 'Delicate'

TA201934 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 20 Dec 87

[Report by Arab Affairs correspondent Aharon Barne'a]

[Excerpts] We called Butrus Ghali, Egypt's minister of state for foreign affairs, on the telephone this evening. What Ghali told us is approximately what was heard by Moshe Sason, our ambassador in Cairo, who was summoned to the Egyptian Foreign Ministry today.

Egypt condemns and strongly protests the deterioration in the situation in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, Dr Ghali told us, speaking along the lines of his government's official announcement. Egypt believes, Ghali says, that the Israeli Government's violent moves threaten the peace process in the Middle East. Egypt calls on Israel to defend the rights of the Palestinian man, primarily his right to self-determination, Ghali says. [passage omitted]

There is no future for peace and security in the Middle East, Ghali adds, if a quick, peaceful solution to the Palestinian problem is not found. Answering a question we posed, Dr Ghali says he does not know whether the Egyptian Government leadership has already decided to adopt a practical reaction to events in the territories. Regardless, it is still possible to say this evening that Israeli-Egyptian relations are in a very delicate condition, perhaps the most delicate since the Lebanese war and the Sabra and Shatila massacre.

We have learned that several Arab countries, including Saudi Arabia, Jordan, and even Syria and Lebanon, which do not maintain diplomatic relations with Cairo, have exerted heavy pressure on the Egyptian Government over the last 24 hours, demanding that action be taken and that the Egyptian ambassador in Tel Aviv be recalled to Cairo. [passage omitted]

It seems that the Egyptian leadership generally is subject to heavy pressures and is faced with a very hard dilemma. It is very reasonable to assume that if the wave of riots in the territories continues, the Egyptian leadership will be unable to settle for announcements of condemnation and protests, even if they are worded in the strongest possible terms.

Basyuni Comments on Unrest

TA202003 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 20 Dec 87

[Interview with Egyptian Ambassador Muhammad Basyuni by Arab affairs correspondent Aharon Barne'a in English; date and place not given—videorecorded with Hebrew subtitles]

[Text] [Basyuni] We are doing our best for achieving the comprehensive peace, because as you know, what is going on in the area is affecting the relations between

Egypt and Israel. You can't imagine the atmosphere in Egypt now, in the Egyptian people in the streets. When they watch the TV, international TV in any place in the world and what is going on in Gaza Strip and the West Bank, it affects for sure the relations between Egypt and Israel.

[Barne'a] Is it as bad as it was after the massacre in Sabra and Shatila?

[Basyuni] I think since 1982 this is the first time that the atmosphere in Egypt is very tough against Israel.

[Barne'a] Is there a possibility that you, Mr Ambassador, will be recalled to Cairo as Ambassador Murtada was recalled after the Sabra and Shatila massacre?

[Basyuni] Look, the reaction of Egypt will depend on what will happen in the future, and the developments of the situation in the area.

Weizman Comments on Emissary to Egypt, Unrest

TA202103 Tel Aviv Educational Television in Hebrew 1500 GMT 20 Dec 87

[Studio interview with Minister Without Portfolio 'Ezer Weizman, currently acting foreign minister, by Dan Margalit—live]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] [Margalit] Assuming you were to send an emissary to Cairo as you recommended in the Cabinet today, what would you say on behalf of the Israeli Government? How would you explain our policy in the territories? What could you do on this matter to correct relations with Egypt?

[Weizman] First, I would have encouraged them finally to find some Palestinian representatives, even if they are PLO, on the condition that the PLO recognizes UN Resolutions 242 and 338, ceases fire—as was the case between the PLO and us in 1981 regarding northern Israel, with Philip Habib's mediation—and enters negotiations with us in the framework of a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation on the future of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza. One of the reasons for our lack of desire to have emissaries go to Egypt or to have this subject discussed further is that there are serious elements, in the government too, who do not want to discuss the future of Judaea and Samaria. It is good for them to sit back as they are doing now and shoot at each other occasionally.

[Margalit] Your position is known and familiar. Still, do you think that such a position which recognizes the entry of the PLO into a delegation...

[Weizman, interrupting] Conditional entry.

[Margalit] Still, do you believe such a position can be acceptable to the entire Israeli Government? Could you represent the entire Israeli Government with this position if you...

[Weizman, interrupting] No, but I could have, so I hope, influenced the Egyptians to find representatives that would be suitable to us, Jordan and Egypt, as we discussed 8 or 9 years ago. [passage omitted]

[Margalit] You believe, I understand, that Israeli soldiers are not equipped with sufficient means to disperse the demonstrations in the territories in a way that will cause less loss of life.

[Weizman] Look, there are demonstrations around the world. Take Korea, for example. We see pictures of events there every day, and yet they do not result in dead people. They make use of water, rubber bullets, helmets, shields and so on and so forth there. I am sorry when the IDF needs to disperse demonstrations instead of preparing for a war—which will not take place, I hope—on land, in the air, and at sea. But if and when it needs to do so, it should be done differently. I prefer to find a political solution so that the IDF will be able to prepare for the prevention of war rather than for the prevention of demonstrations.

[Margalit] Mr Weizman, may I infer from your remarks that there is a certain degree, not of justification but of understanding, for the acts of lawbreakers in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza?

[Weizman] Look, any outburst that is so deep, so long—lasting for 2 weeks already—and so wide-ranging... [changes thought] Any outburst that is accompanied by negative repercussions throughout the world, especially the Arab world—after all, it should be of prime concern to us what effect this has on Egypt and Jordan—cannot be dismissed. I do not justify this, but I certainly understand it. Just as I, while discussing Israel's Arabs...

[Margalit, interrupting] Oh, this is the question I want to pose to you. If this is so, you may be revealing a certain degree, not of justification but of understanding also, for the strike the Israeli Arab sector is initiating tomorrow

[Weizman] Sometimes you can justify something without understanding it, while sometimes you can understand something without justifying it. I would prefer that the Arab citizens in the State of Israel not strike tomorrow, but I understand them just as I understand how emotional we get when something happens in the Jewish world and justly resort to demonstrations. It is true that the comparison here is not fully correct, but whoever thinks that the Israeli Arabs in the Galilee and in the Triangle, as well as the Negev Bedouins, do not know a thing about what is taking place in Nabulus, Janin, or Khan Yunus, is mistaken.

Efforts To Soften U.S. Stand on Vote in UN

TA201822 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 20 Dec 87

[Text] Israel is making a serious diplomatic effort this evening to soften the U.S. stand before tomorrow's UN Security Council vote. Our political affairs correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami has learned that Israel is asking the

United States at least to abstain from voting on the Arab condemnation of Israel, if it does not plan to use its right of veto.

At today's Cabinet meeting Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir reiterated that Israel is using greater restraint than any other administration in the world faced with similar circumstances.

Shamir Sees 'Negative Impact' in UN Protest

TA211144 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 21 Dec 87

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir this morning addressed the Jeane Kirkpatrick Forum in Tel Aviv. Afterwards, reporter David Essing asked the prime minister what the likely outcome would be of a UN Security Council condemnation of Israel in the vote tonight on the situation in the territories.

[Begin recording] [Shamir] A negative impact. It will encourage the extreme elements in our area and it will discourage the positive elements.

[Essing] Mr Shamir, what is your reaction to the general strike by Israeli Arabs today, sir?

[Shamir] Well, I am concerned about it. I hope that this strike will come to an end without any other dangerous developments, and I would say to the Arab citizens that they don't have any reason to follow the extreme and terrorist factors in our area. We have a long tradition of cooperation and coexistence, and we have to continue with this and develop it.

[Essing] Are they jeopardizing the achievements they have already made here in Israel?

[Shamir] I don't...[changes thought] I hope they will not do it. [end recording]

Peres Supports Peace Process Despite Unrest

TA210640 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 21 Dec 87

[Text] Vice Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres returned from his South American tour last night. Mr Peres, at Ben-Gurion Airport, said that we must continue with the peace process as if there were no terrorism. Our correspondent Dan Eshel reports from the airport:

[Begin recording] [Eshel] Shim'on Peres says that had he returned to Israel earlier than planned because of the incidents in the territories, he would have accomplished nothing but to further dramatize a very tense situation. I asked Peres about the sharp language used by Egypt regarding the incidents in the territories:

[Peres] I think we should tell the Egyptians, the Jordanians, the Israeli Arabs, and ourselves as well, that most of the incidents have been initiated and carried out by people who are against the peace process. These disturbances are not caused by people who are interested in continuing the peace process. To paraphrase a famous saying of David Ben-Gurion: I believe we should continue with the peace process as though there were no terrorists, and we should fight terrorism as though there were no peace process.

[Eshel] The foreign minister says that the strategy of terrorism is meant to prevent peace. He rejects the claims linking his proposal to demilitarize the Gaza Strip to the timing of the disturbances:

[Peres] There were Israelis who tried to link the two things, but according to all our information there is absolutely no connection between this proposal and the incidents in the Gaza Strip and elsewhere. In the same way, I would not have linked the opposition to the international conference to an increase in terrorism. I regret that there are several Israelis who tried to make political gains from a painful situation.

[Eshel] Shim'on Peres was asked whether he would consider meeting with President Mubarak in the wake of the disturbances and the difficult atmosphere they created in Egypt:

[Peres] I will study all these issues. I constantly reiterate, however, that neither Egypt nor Israel should lend their hands to those who instigate the riots. It was not Israel that caused the riots.

[Eshel] The current goal is to prevent further escalation and restore calm, and I hope that the disturbances will subside, ended Shim'on Peres. [end recording]

Officials 'Concerned' by Husayn Moscow Visit

TA200740 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 20 Dec 87 p 1

[Report by 'Aqiva Eldar]

[Text] Jerusalem is deeply concerned by King Husayn's visit to Moscow tomorrow. Senior government sources have expressed the fear that Husayn might sign a deal for the purchase of MIG-29's which the Soviets are offering him under excellent terms. These sources believe that such a deal, coupled with rapprochement with Syria and the overtures Syria and Egypt are making to each other, might drive Jordan farther away from the United States and seal the fate of the peace process.

Military Denies Knowledge of Libyan Overflights

TA181839 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 18 Dec 87

[Text] Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi claims Israeli planes overflew Libyan airspace and that Israel is planning an attack on his country. According to Libya, the Israeli aircraft flew over the eastern part of the country and its territorial waters northeast of Al-Abraq. The Israel military spokesman said he knew nothing of any such flight.

IDF Destroys 'Terrorist' Vehicle; Casualties

TA211422 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1330 GMT 21 Dec 87

[Text] A vehicle belonging to terrorists was destroyed this morning by Israeli forces north of South Lebanese Army [SLA] positions that terrorists tried to capture last night. Our correspondent in the north Menahem Horowitz reports that the terrorists in the vehicles wanted to help their comrades who retreated from SLA positions they had earlier attacked. Five terrorists were killed by SLA fire. Bloodstains and dragging marks were found which show that the terrorists suffered additional casualties.

King, Queen Leave on Official Visit to USSR

JN211245 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 21 Dec 87

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn and Her Majesty Queen Nur left Amman today for the Soviet Union on an official visit scheduled to last for several days. During the visit his majesty will hold talks with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev and Andrey Gromyko, chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, on issues of mutual interest and bilateral relations.

His majesty was seen off by Crown Prince Hasan, Princess Tharwat, Prince Faysal ibn Husayn, the princes, and the princesses. His majesty was also seen off by Ahmad al-Lawzi, president of the Senate; Isma'il Hijazi, first deputy speaker; Prince Ra'd ibn Zayd, chief chamberlain; ministers; the chief of the royal household; the secretary general of the Royal Hashemite Court; the director of public security; the chief of staff; and the charge d'affaires at the Soviet Embassy in Amman.

His majesty is accompanied by Prince 'Abdallah ibn al-Husayn; Zayd al-Rifa'i, prime minister; Marwan al-Qasim, chief of the Royal Hashemite Court; Field Marshal Zayd ibn Shakir, commander in chief of the Jordanian Armed Forces; Tahir al-Masri, foreign minister; the assistant chief of staff for planning, organization, and electronic warfare; and the chief of the Royal Air Force.

Prince Hasan took the constitutional oath in the presence of His Majesty King Husayn and the Cabinet as regent during his majesty's absence from the homeland.

Al-Rifa'i Returns After Brief Visit to Syria

JN181948 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 18 Dec 87

[Text] Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i returned to Amman this evening after a brief working visit to Syria during which he conveyed a message from His Majesty King Husayn to his brother His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad. During the meeting, which was attended by Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam and Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi, discussions centered on the situation and latest developments in the region.

The prime minister was received at the airport by the deputy prime minister and ministers. Al-Rifa'i left Damascus earlier this evening. He was seen off by Syrian Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi, a number of ministers, and the Jordanian ambassador in Damascus.

Prime Minister Addresses House on Budget

JN201407 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 20 Dec 87 pp 15, 26

[Excerpts] Amman—Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i has affirmed that the government will continue to support the steadfast citizens in the occupied territories, enabling them to safeguard their Arab identity and cling to their national soil. He also stressed that the government will continue to strengthen the Jordanian Armed Forces and provide them with sophisticated weapons and military hardware.

In a speech at the House of Representatives yesterday, during which the House unanimously approved the 1988 draft budget bill, Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i reiterated Jordan's support for fraternal Iraq in its confrontation of the Iranian aggression against its territory and the Arab nation. The following is the text of the prime minister's speech:

Mr Speaker, respected House members. At the beginning of my speech, I would like on my own behalf and that of my colleagues, the ministers, to thank every member of the esteemed financial committee, its chairman, and its rapporteur for their unceasing and sincere efforts to prepare the committee's report on the 1988 draft budget law. I would also like to praise the level of serious responsibility, the spirit of sincere cooperation, and the thorough and comprehensive vision that prevailed over the discussions of the esteemed committee with the finance minister, his colleagues the ministers, and with the other officials in the various state departments.

Brothers, it is not strange that we adopt such a course because we in the executive and legislative branches share the burden of responsibility and, guided by the principles of our Constitution, cooperate to enhance the status of our homeland and citizens. Before anything else, we are members of the same Jordanian family and we rally around the objectives and principles of His Majesty King Husayn. [passage omitted]

His majesty the leader's wisdom, political acumen, and ceaseless action have had a great impact on consolidating the domestic front, achieving progress in our economic and social march, entrenching the bases of Arab solidarity, and enhancing Jordan's credibility and status in the international arena. Our one Arab nation is proud of the major success of the extraordinary Amman Arab summit and is optimistic about its results. This summit has laid down the bases of accord and reconciliation and has entrenched the foundations of joint Arab action. [passage omitted]

We are dutybound to praise our committed citizens, who daily set the best examples of national dignity, Arab affiliation, commitment to principles, and tackling objectives and challenges. We all convey our sincere greetings to our relatives and brothers in the occupied part of our homeland. We are proud of them and their sacrifices and steadfastness. We would like to affirm to them that we still abide by our pledge to continue supporting them in their confrontation of occupation, employing all our capabilities and potentials to secure the rights of our people on their national soil.

Mr Speaker, esteemed House members, the esteemed committee's report explained and analyzed in great detail all issues and topics, particularly the international and regional circumstances that engulf us—the Israeli occupation, the prolongation of the Iraq-Iran war and its spread to other areas, the success of the assimilation and rectification operations on the domestic level of development and change, and the ability to maintain stable and balanced economic indexes. This analysis is in line with his majesty's speech from the throne at the opening of the fifth session of your esteemed House and is in accord with the budget statement.

The government thanks the esteemed financial committee for lauding the overall means, policies, and legislations in the economic, social, health, educational, energy, water, local government, and youth areas and also in the field of joint Arab action. This affirms that we have all conformed our attitudes and approaches. It also affirms the genuine intentions to fulfill the homeland's aspirations and to tackle difficult problems and complex circumstances.

The report pointed out that there is a clear and large increase in aid which is 68 percent more than last year's. It is noteworthy here that the figures mentioned in the budget are estimated figures for a coming fiscal year. Hence, such figures are a document of hope and aspiration. If we want to be accurate in mentioning the sum of the annual aid which was committed in accordance with the Baghdad summit resolutions, then the figure would be much larger than that mentioned in the budget draft law for the fiscal year 1988. The sum allocated to next year, which is higher than the current year's sum, affirms the government's confidence in the fraternal Arab states' pan-Arab commitment toward us, particularly following the great success achieved by the summit of reconciliation and accord in Amman.

The government agrees with the esteemed financial committee's remarks that most of the national economy's infrastucture has been completed and that it is high time to focus on productive projects with good economic returns. Here I would like to assert that the government evaluates, through continued follow up and assessment, the priority of projects. This is done to achieve balance between the production and services sectors with the aim of increasing the national economy's productive capability and providing a solid basis for continued growth in various sectors. The fact that the requirements for development continuously necessitate further additions to the infrastructure to serve the new productive projects and meet the growing quantitative and qualitative demands of these services is taken into consideration.

Given that such an approach is one of the public sector's genuine objectives, the public sector should be urged to consolidate its role in investment and direct production, particularly in light of the availability of both the infrastructure and the investment atmosphere suitable for its activities. Supporting and promoting domestic production are among the government's priorities. The government has adopted a number of policies and measures to achieve this objective. These policies and measures take various forms. For example, there is protection in terms of imports and customs as well as other facilities.

This is done according to bases and rules which will preserve the good quality of production, secure adherence to Jordanian specifications and standards, and ensure the stability of prices. I would like to emphasize that the government's economic policy is based on free and equal competition and that the protection measures, particularly in terms of imports, are viewed as temporary measures which will be reconsidered when necessary. This approach is in agreement with the remarks made by the esteemed financial committee in this regard. [passage omitted]

Mr Speaker, esteemed House members, as for the general recommendations mentioned in the esteemed financial committee's report, Jordan under the leadership of His Majesty King Husayn has supported fraternal Iraq since the very beginning in its confrontation of the Iranian aggression against Iraqi territory and against Iranian schemes aimed at obliterating Arab identity and dominating the Arab nation's resources. This genuine Arab stand expresses Jordan's pan-Arab policy, as well as its historic mission and its call for Arab solidarity against the surrounding dangers. His majesty the king continues his contacts with the fraternal Arab leaders to reach Arab formulas capable of confronting the challenges represented by the Israeli and Iranian onslaughts against Arab territories and the Arab people and their resources.

The contacts also aim to prepare appropriate ground for resuming coordination and integration in various fields. In compliance with royal policy, the government is holding intensive contacts with fraternal Arab governments to lay down ways to consolidate joint Arab action and to attain together the appropriate mechanisms to implement joint projects on the road to Arab economic integration.

We are dutybound to extend our great thanks to and deep appreciation for the fraternal Arab states which provide us with aid, foremost among which is the fraternal Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. We are certain that the brothers whose conditions have prevented them from providing us with the approved aid will meet their obligations. We also extend our thanks to the Arab organizations and funds for their favorable response to our development requirements—the response which had a great effect on implementing many vital projects.

Mr Speaker, respected House members, the government has stressed the importance of constructive dialogue, exchange of views, consultation, and cooperation between the legislative and executive authorities. It has also emphasized the principle of their joint responsibility, as all this will help serve the public interest which we

are all eager to preserve. This will also help to provide the sons of our dear homeland with a decent life and economic prosperity. All this is aligned with the remarks of the respected financial committee. In harmony with these principles, I am going to give in brief my replies to the recommendations of your respected committee.

1. The government supports the respected financial committee's recommendation with regard to the continuation of support and care for our military establishment and with regard to providing it with all means of might and strength in terms of preparation, training, and armament. The government believes this support is one of the basic pillars and firm principles guiding its policy.

2. The government does not spare any effort in supporting the steadfastness and struggle of our kinfolk in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, as this emanates from its eagerness to entrench our kinfolk's identity on their national soil. This also reflects sentiments of fraternity and unity of blood, objectives, and destiny. Through the development committees, the government has laid down the bases and foundations capable of guaranteeing the sound implementation of projects which seek to improve the kinfolk's living conditions there and bolster their steadfastness.

On financial and economic policy:

A. The government seeks to cover the current expenditure and increasing percentages of capital expenditures from domestic revenues through controlling expenditure and improving the revenue-collecting processes. It is interested in realizing this objective which will minimize our resort to borrowing. Until this is achieved, it will continue to work to reduce and control borrowing to keep the servicing of the public debt within internationally-acceptable safe limits. The government has decided to earmark any amount received from the aid installment arrears for settling the accumulating deficit and reducing the public debt. The government has also decided not to allocate any of these amounts to any new aspect of spending.

B. The government is aware that available revenues are limited. It applies strict measures when it decides on the aspects of spending, especially development spending. It monitors the soundness of implementation and performance to make the best possible savings, taking into account urgent needs and the pressing demand for the implementation of projects that activate the economy. The state organs' current and recurrent expenditures are one of the government's concerns, as it seeks to channel them in a useful manner, away from luxury and luxurious practices. Despite the fact that funds have been earmarked in the draft state general budget for fiscal year 1988 for the purchase of a number of vehicles and equipment, the government has embarked on a comprehensive study to identify the available number of these items and decide on the new requirements if any such requirements are found. Actual spending on these items will only materialize in light of this study. It is worth mentioning that the vehicles noted in the draft state budget law are field project vehicles.

C. Regarding the respected committee's remark on using foreign expertise as explained in the item on conducting studies, I would like to inform you that most of the development projects contained in the budget and the 5-year plan will be financed by loans and aid granted by Arab and international institutions. These institutions lay the condition that economic and technical feasibility studies must be provided, as these studies determine whether these loans and forms of aid will be approved or not. It must also be noted that local companies participate in the study contracts awarded to foreign companies. Otherwise, these foreign companies must cooperate with the official apparata.

Furthermore, the government always asks all of these foreign companies to involve specialists from the competent ministries in these studies, as this will help us to carry out these tasks by ourselves in the future—something which materialized in oil prospecting and other projects.

However, regarding the studies financed from the Treasury, the government gives priority to local consultative engineering companies to implement these studies.

D. The government thanks the financial committee for supporting efforts to reconsider the status of public institutions. The Royal Commission for Administrative Development has completed its studies on the issue of merging these institutions to improve performance and control expenditures. The government is also studying the status of each institution to correct their conditions and lessen their reliance on the Treasury and to make them rely fully on their own resources within a limited period of time.

E. The government has manipulated the situations of several stumbling companies. This has corrected their financial and administrative positions and put them on the right course. These companies gained a position that enabled them to support the national economy after they were living at the expense of this economy. The government will spare no effort to continue its assessment of the positions of public joint-stock companies of a strategic and vital nature and to create the circumstances that would guarantee their success and the continuation of their activity. However, regarding the circumstances which led to losses by these companies, I have explained them to your esteemed House in previous sessions and occasions.

F. Regarding unemployment, the government is concerned about organizing the labor market through a comprehensive and integrated program in several fields. This program is aimed at reconsidering the concept of qualification and employment to make manpower supply commensurate with domestic development needs

and Arab needs. To confirm what the esteemed committee has referred to in this recommendation, the government has taken several measures to alleviate the problem of unemployment within a short time. Some of these measures are:

1. Obligating the community colleges, the major private schools, and the trade and industrial institutions to appoint a doctor working full time in each of them, in addition to his assistants.

2. Expanding initial medical care in all government schools to cover all students.

3. Providing 600 work opportunities for engineers in several ministries, institutions, and companies, which will appoint the current trainee engineers with them and provide the rest from among the engineers who ask for work in accordance with their applications to the Civil Service Commission.

4. Obligating the major municipalities in the district centers to appoint an engineer working full time in each of them, obligating other municipalities to appoint an engineer working jointly between two or more municipalities in accordance with the amount of work and distance between them, and obligating the municipal councils to appoint an engineer after dividing them into groups in accordance with the amount of work and distance between them.

5. Applying the principle of part-time work in government institutions in accordance with bases and regulations that will be established for this purpose. This will increase work opportunities in each area.

6. Giving priority to the Jordanian workers in various fields and organizing the expatriate labor market.

7. Intensifying contacts with the fraternal Arab oil-producing countries to provide work opportunities for Jordanians and to facilitate their hiring in these countries. [passage omitted]

The issue of unemployment is a national issue that requires intensified efforts by all institutions in the Kingdom. Therefore, the government expects the national and private sectors and the trade unions to assume their responsibilities to make room for those who look for work and to contribute to the program of technical cooperation.

However, with regard to the measures taken by the government in the long run, the government will follow up these measures through the results of the national conference on educational development by organizing education at its various levels and stages, the compulsory and the secondary stages and the higher studies. The government will also do this through planning for the development of manpower and the preparation of skills required by development. [passage omitted]

Al-Qasim Returns From Visit to Egypt 19 Dec

JN192124 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 19 Dec 87

[Text] Royal Hashemite Court Chief Marwan al-Qasim returned to Amman this evening following a brief visit to the Arab Republic of Egypt during which he met with President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and conveyed to him a message from His Majesty King Husayn. The message deals with ongoing events in the occupied Arab territories and the Israeli occupation authorities' arbitrary practices against Arab citizens.

Al-Qasim's talks with His Excellency President Mubarak and senior Egyptian officials focused on the escalating events in the occupied Arab territories and on the repressive measures and practices by the occupation authorities against the unarmed citizens there. This affirms the dire need for convening an international conference for peace to find a just and comprehensive solution to the Palestinian question.

Talks also dealt with the results of the Amman summit, the summit of reconciliation and accord, as well as the resolutions it issued. The phase of implementing these resolutions has begun. The summit's resolutions have become the basic approach in Jordanian and Arab diplomatic efforts in the coming phase.

Al-Qasim's talks with Egyptian officials also dealt with the growing relations between the two fraternal countries and ways to enhance them in all fields to serve the interest of both peoples in the two fraternal countries.

House Criticizes Israeli 'Repressive Measures'

JN191540 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1445 GMT 19 Dec 87

[Text] Amman, 19 Dec (PETRA)—The House of Representatives has denounced the Israeli occupation authorities' repressive measures and practices in the occupied Gaza Strip, the West Bank, and the Arab territories. In a statement issued during a session today, the House of Representatives expressed support for our kinfolk's resistance, steadfastness, and challenge against the Israeli occupation. The House of Representatives sent copies of this statement to the United Nations, the UN Security Council, the EEC, the Arab League General Secretariat, the ICO, the IPU, and the Arab Parliamentary Union. The following is the text of the statement:

The House of Representatives takes into consideration the Israeli occupation authorities' repressive measures, acts of terrorism, and indiscriminate killing in the occupied Gaza Strip, the West Bank, and the occupied Arab territories. It recalls the international agreements and conventions on human rights and the UN Charter and international laws, particularly those related to the conditions of peoples who are under foreign occupation. In light of this, the House of Representatives, during its session held on 19 December 1987, expresses the following:

1. Its denunciation of all Israeli repressive measures, especially since they constitute a flagrant violation of all international laws and charters.

2. Its full support for our kinfolk's resistance, steadfastness, and challenge against Israeli occupation.

3. It also appeals to the competent international authorities to denounce and end these bestial Israeli massacres, especially since they constitute a flagrant violation of international laws and the Geneva Convention and its protocols.

Group Issues Threat To Kill Hostages

JN181747 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1738 GMT 18 Dec 87

[Text] A short while ago, we received a report from Beirut that the Islamic Jihad Organization for the Liberation of Palestine has threatened to kill the hostages it is holding if Israel does not stop its repressive measures in the occupied territory.

Israeli Actions Cited

NC181837 Paris AFP in English 1824 GMT 18 Dec 87

[Text] Beirut, Dec 18 (AFP)—The Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine (IJLP), a group holding four foreign hostages, warned here Friday that it would harm its captives if the Israeli Army continued to shoot dead demonstrators in the occupied territories.

The threat, contained in a hand-written communique in Arabic delivered to a Western news agency, was backed by a Polaroid photograph showing one of the hostages, U.S. lecturer Robert Polhill, wearing a khaki tracksuit and yellow T-shirt, with two machine-guns pointed at him.

The group warned that it would use "extremely negative methods against America and Israel" and "all its cards," including the "American spies of Mossad," if Israel pursued its "criminal policy of repression against the uprising" and killed more "innocent victims" in the Gaza Strip and West Bank.

The IJLP had kidnapped three U.S. professors, Polhill, Alann Steen and Jesse Turner, as well as an Indian lecturer with U.S. residence, Mithileshwar Singh, from the campus of the Beirut University College in mainly Muslim West Beirut on January 24.

In their last communique on May 21, the group said the four "spies" of the Israeli secret service, Mossad, would be "put on trial at the end of their interrogation."

A wave of anti-Israeli protests around the occupied territories has claimed at least 17 lives in the past 11 days, as Israeli troops opened fire on the demonstrators.

PLO Policy Condemned

NC181950 Paris AFP in English 1940 GMT 18 Dec 87

[Excerpts] Beirut, Dec 18 (AFP)—The Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine (IJLP), a group holding four Beirut hostages, including three U.S. lecturers, warned Friday that it could harm its captives if the Israeli Army continued to kill Palestinian protesters in the occupied territories.

The implicit threat on their lives, in a hand-written communique in Arabic delivered to a Western news agency here, was backed by a colour Polaroid photograph showing one of the hostages, U.S. lecturer Robert Polhill, 56, wearing a khaki tracksuit and T-shirt, with two machine-guns pointed at him.

The communique also contained a photocopy of a passport photograph of another U.S. hostage, Jesse Turner, 47. [passage omitted]

The group, in its latest communique, implicitly attacked the mainstream Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Arab states for their support of an international peace conference on the Middle East.

In language close to that used by pro-Iranian kidnappers in Lebanon, the group said that "only the believers are in a position to speak in the name of Palestine," and added the disturbances in the occupied territories signalled "the rebirth of Islam in the world."

"Those who push for the holding of an international peace conference are stabbing the Palestinian people and will not achieve their aim. They will never represent Palestine in international organisations because there will be no compromise with the Zionists, who must be annihilated," the group added.

The IJLP, which is not known to have ties to the Islamic Jihad, another group holding hostages, described as "treason" the efforts of the "Arabs of America to calm the situation." Referring to possible United Nations intervention, the group dismissed the organisation as "just a charlatan."

Blaming the United States for the "Nazi crimes being committed" in Gaza and the West Bank, the IJLP said the unrest spelt the failure of last month's Arab summit in Amman, where the participants condemned "Iranian aggression" in the Gulf war.

In a statement on January 31, the group proposed an exchange of its four hostages for 400 Lebanese and Palestinian guerrillas being held prisoner in Israel. It threatened to "execute" the four professors in February but then reversed its decision "for humanitarian reasons."

On March 23, the IJLP announced that Alann Steen was seriously ill, warning that he might die. Later the same month, it said the hostages were being questioned, and in their last communique, on May 21, the group said that the "American spies" would be "put on trial at the end of their interrogation."

Students at Beirut University College have organised several demonstrations in a bid to secure the release of their teachers. Earlier this week, the wives of the lecturers also made an appeal to the kidnappers.

FRG's Cordes Expected Released 'Next Week'

NC191254 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1235 GMT 19 Dec 87

[Text] According to information received by the Voice of Lebanon, diplomatic sources expect the German hostage Rudolf Cordes to be released very soon, between the middle and the end of next week. These sources add that preparations are under way to organize the release operation following an intensification of efforts in this direction.

UK-Iranian Negoitations on Hostages Revealed

JN181345 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic
16 Dec 87 p 23

[Excerpt] Paris—Well-informed West European sources have disclosed to AL-QABAS that the United Kingdom has conducted secret negotiations with Iran to secure the release of the three British hostages who are being held captive in Lebanon, including Terry Waite, the Anglican Church's envoy. The sources said that these negotiations, which lasted for weeks, were shrouded in complete secrecy.

The sources noted that a special British envoy was sent to Lebanon to hold talks with Lebanese elements who have some influence on those who are detaining the hostages. The sources said that British officials make a point of denying all reports about these secret negotiations, but that many West European quarters, including France, recently received confirmed, accurate, and detailed reports about these negotiations from various elements directly involved in this affair, including official Iranian sources.

Citing the well-informed West European sources, AL-QABAS reveals the details of this operation as follows:

The operation began last September when British officials received a verbal message from a ranking Iranian official through a prominent British journalist who visited Tehran. The message said that Iranian officials were ready to help secure the release of Terry Waite and any other British hostage in Lebanon, and that they wanted to hold direct talks with pertinent British authorities in this regard.

The Iranian official explained in his message that Terry Waite is in good health, that Tehran does not view him as a spy, and that he is still in Lebanon and has not been transferred to Iran as was reported. The Iranian official's message did not contain any information on the condition or fate of any other British hostage.

It is known that Terry Waite was kidnapped in Beirut on 20 January 1987 while he was on a mission to secure the release of U.S. hostages. There are two other British hostages in Lebanon, the first, journalist Alec Collett was kidnapped in March 1985, and the second is John McCarthy who was kidnapped in April 1986.

Negotiations began at the time between British officials or envoys and Iranian envoys. A special British envoy secretly visited Lebanon to hold talks with Lebanese quarters who are closely associated with the kidnappers. These negotiations lasted many weeks and were suspended at the end of last November on the eve of the release of the two French hostages Jean-Louis Normandin and Roger Auque. During these negotiations, two types of conditions were advanced:

The first consists of Iranian political demands. The Iranian officials asked the British Government to attenuate its campaign and efforts seeking a new UN Security Council resolution that would impose international sanctions on Iran, withdraw its warships from the Gulf waters and the nearby area, and agree to the resumption of normal diplomatic relations with Tehran since these relations have been practically frozen over the past few months.

The second condition consists of a demand submitted by those who are close to the kidnappers. They asked the United Kingdom to pay 2.5 million sterling pounds to secure the release of Terry Waite and another sum to secure the release of John McCarthy. No mention was made of the third British hostage.

The well-informed West European sources told AL-QABAS that the negotiations were suspended following the British Government's refusal to pay a ransom for the release of Terry Waite or any other hostage. The British Government was also not enthusiastic about paying a large, public political price to the Iranian officials.

The sources said that a ranking French official has raised the issue of these secret negotiations with a ranking British official whom he met following the release of the two French hostages and following the violent campaign the United Kingdom launched against Frence. The sources noted that the British official did not deny the negotiations with Iran and blamed France for indirectly aborting them because, in his opinion, France had demonstrated more flexibility in dealing with the Iranians. This then made them adopt a more intransigent stand in their negotiations with the British. [passage omitted]

Resistance, SLA-Israeli Clashes, Casualties

1 Killed, 4 Wounded

NC181546 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1500 GMT 18 Dec 87

[Text] Resistance fighters clashed with an Israeli [as heard] patrol on the approach to the town of Al-Khiyam inside the so-called security belt this morning. As a result of the 15-minute attack, one of Antoine Lahd's militiamen was killed and four others were wounded.

Israel radio said that two members of the resistance group were martyred and the fate of three others remains unknown.

Marj 'Uyun Barracks Attacked

NC181739 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 18 Dec 87

[Text] According to security reports from Sidon, a resistance group planted a mine on the Sfaray-Kafr Falus road in Jazzin district yesterday. A mechanized enemy patrol hit the mine. An armored personnel carrier was completely destroyed by the blast and some of its crew were killed or wounded.

A resistance group yesterday fired four rockets at the barracks of agent Lahd's militia in Marj 'Uyun, scoring hits. Fire was seen blazing at an ammunition dump inside the barracks.

Israeli Airport Shelled

NC190620 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0537 GMT 19 Dec 87

[Text] We have just received the following report: Resistance fighters this morning shelled Israel's Bezet military airport, which is located about 3 km from the border between Lebanon and occupied Palestine. The resistance fighters inflicted painful losses on the enemy's ranks. The rockets hit the western runway and maintenance hangars, and fire was seen raging in the airport.

We have also learned that resistance fighters launched an attack against an enemy position in the area of the Ra's al-Naqurah crossing point at dawn today, inflicting casualties and destroying two sleeping quarters and an armored personnel carrier. They also destroyed an Israeli tank on the main road.

Israeli Planes Retaliate

NC190810 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0745 GMT 19 Dec 87

[Text] Security sources in the south report that Israeli warplanes have been raking the areas around the crossing point on the joint border in Ra's al-Naqurah with machineguns since dawn today.

Meanwhile, Israeli troops deployed in the area are pounding nearby villages in retaliation for the operation carried out by fundamentalist gunmen against an Israeli position on the crossing point. According to fundamentalist sources, the attack left some 10 Israelis either dead or wounded and a tank and an armored personnel carrier out of commission.

SLA Kills 5 'Terrorists'

NC210629 Marj 'Uyun Lebanon Voice of Hope in Arabic 0600 GMT 21 Dec 87

[Text] Heroic South Lebanese Army [SLA] soldiers repelled a military attack on the 'Arab Salim position this morning. The details are as follows: At around 0430 today, hundreds of terrorists launched an armed attack on the 'Arab Salim position. They used machineguns and rockets and were supported by artillery. The soldiers manning the position clashed with the attackers, using the appropriate weapons and supported by tank artillery. Preliminary reports say that five terrorists were killed and one SLA soldier was slightly injured. Search operations are still continuing.

Israelis Strafe Al-Nabatiyah

NC210800 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0745 GMT 21 Dec 87

[Text] At 0830 today, clashes intensified between the SLA and the Israeli forces on one side and the Muslim fundamentalists on the other in Jarju', 'Arab Salim, and Al-Nabatiyah. According to reports from southern Lebanon, Israeli military aircraft strafed the main highway leading to Al-Nabatiyah al-Fawqa and Kafr Tibnit a short while ago. As a result, seven persons were injured.

Israeli aircraft also flew over Jarju' and 'Arab Salim at 0400 today, dropping flares.

Resistance Hits Helicopter

NC210919 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 21 Dec 87

[Text] We have just been informed that in the course of a major operation carried out by resistance men against two positions manned by Israeli troops and agent militiamen at 0300 today, a helicopter was hit and a tank was set on fire inside the Al-Suwayda' position. Furthermore, all troops in the two positions were eliminated.

Meanwhile, the areas in the vicinity of Al-Nabatiyah are currently coming under intermittent shellfire.

Amal Attacks 'Agent' Patrol; 9 Casualties

NC191227 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 19 Dec 87

[Text] At 0930 today, a group from the Karbala' company of the Amal Movement's regular army planted several explosive charges on the road linking the Wadi al-Suwayda' and Jabal Tuhrah positions in the Al-Nabatiyah area. As an agent militia patrol in an M-113 armored personnel carrier was passing in the area, the group detonated the charges simultaneously, completely destroying the vehicle and killing or wounding the estimated nine militiamen who were in it. The vehicle is still in the area of the operation.

Subsequently, Kafr Rumman and the Al-Nabatiyah area came under heavy shellfire. Two shells fell on the Kafr Rumman-Al-Nabatiyah crossroads, causing material damage. The road to Al-Nabatiyah is risky because of sniper fire. Israeli helicopters are also combing some areas in the occupied border strip for resistance fighters.

Amal Declares 'Maximum State of Alert' in South

NC210715 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 21 Dec 87

[Text] According to security information received from the south, Amal Movement fighters have been placed on a maximum state of alert over the past few days to confront unusual moves by certain armed organizations, particularly Hizballah, the Communist Party, and the Syrian Social Nationalist Party [SSNP]. The same information indicates that the Amal Movement has strengthened its checkpoints in Tyre, Al-Nabatiyah, and the coastal area of Al-Zahrani in search of weapons. Furthermore, Amal gunmen raided the houses of SSNP officials in Al-Sarafand and its vicinity in search of 20 wanted personnel.

In another development, diplomatic reports have indicated that a new pro-Iranian force has recently carried out a number of military operations against the Syrian forces. The force, which consists of small groups belonging to Hizballah, has been reorganizing its centers and networks in certain West Beirut quarters since its absence from these quarters following the Fathallah massacre at the end of February 1986.

Strikes, Protests Condemn Israeli Practices

NC181940 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 18 Dec 87

[Text] Sidon and the south today responded to the call of the Nasirite Popular Organization, national and Islamic forces, and key figures by staging a general strike, which has affected all parts of the south and its capital. The area came to a complete standstill and all shops were closed.

A demonstration set off from 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp for the Red Cross Committee's headquarters at noon today. The demonstrators handed a memorandum to the committee's officials condemning the practices of the Israeli occupation forces. A sit-in was staged at the great 'Umari Mosque in Sidon after Friday prayers in solidarity with the uprising in the West Bank.

Responding to a call by the Lebanese Women's National Alliance, representatives of women's associations staged a 1-hour sit-in at noon in the courtyard of the UNICEF headquarters in Beirut. Women demonstrators who set off from Mar Ilyas camp at 1130 joined the sit-in at 1245. A delegation representing the women who staged the sit-in handed a UNICEF official two memorandums from the Lebanese Women's National Alliance and the Palestinian Women's Union protesting the Israeli practices.

'Violent Clashes' Erupt on Beirut Combat Lines

NC191502 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1445 GMT 19 Dec 87

[Text] Violent clashes involving the use of heavy-caliber weapons have been raging on the Al-Tayyunah and Dar al-Kitab combat lines for the past 15 minutes. Shells are falling in the adjacent residential areas in 'Ayn al-Rummanah.

Security Source Comments

NC191522 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 19 Dec 87

[Text] A security source has reported that the Dar al-Kitab and Al-Masalih combat lines have been coming under intensive artillery shelling and machinegun fire since 1630 today.

1 Killed; Clashes Continue

NC191609 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 19 Dec 87

[Text] The security situation on the Al-Tayyunah and Dar al-Kitab combat lines deteriorated suddenly this afternoon. Clashes in which machineguns and rockets were used took place from 1640 to 1645 today. Meanwhile, two 82-mm artillery shells were fired at the Jisr al-Basha area, causing material damage. Sniper fire in 'Ayn al-Rummanah killed Tanyus Nabil 'Abdallah. Efforts were made through the security committee to curb the fighting, which began when gunfire was directed at military posts in Al-Tayyunah. However, firing began again at 1710. Heavy and medium machinegun fire is now being exchanged between the opposing positions.

Phalangists, Lebanese Forces Clash in Beirut

NC201836 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1730 GMT 20 Dec 87

[Text] The areas of Al-Judaydah and Saddal-Bawshariyah [in East Beirut] have been the scene of violent clashes between Phalangist members and Lebanese Forces personnel as of 1500 today. Gunmen were reported to have been deployed along the coastal road between Al-Dawrah and Juniyah, as well as in the area of Adunis.

Phalangist sources said the fighting had broken out in the area of Al-Ma'amiltayn this morning, leaving a person named Albert Kayruz dead and three others wounded. A state of panic and extreme unrest now reigns in the eastern areas. The reports indicate that Amin al-Jumayyil's apparatuses have been transferring large quantities of weapons and materiel to the Al-Matn area over the last few days in preparation for securing the Phalangists' absolute and total grip on the area.

Phalangist-Lebanese Forces Struggle Predicted

NC201920 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 20 Dec 87

[Excerpts] What is happening in East Beirut? According to reports that have leaked out despite the known blackout, alerts declared in the ranks of the Phalangist Party and the Lebanese Forces presage the renewal of fighting between the two sides.

The Sadd al-Bawshariyah area, which falls between the spheres of influence of the Al-Matn Phalangist gunmen, who are headed by President al-Jumayyil, and the Lebanese Forces, was the scene of clashes with machineguns and rockets at 1500 this afternoon.

The Lebanese Forces have tried to ascribe a personal character to the clashes, despite the fact that the alerts which resulted from these clashes have extended to Juniyah along the coastal road. [passage omitted]

In their statement, the Lebanese Forces called on citizens not to heed the rumors, without explaining what these rumors were. The statement did not identify the status of the person killed or whether he belonged to any group, and it also failed to reveal the identity of the gunmen with whom the Lebanese Forces personnel had clashed.

It is recalled that the Kayruz family hails from Bsharri and that disputes broke out recently between Samir Ja'ja' and Bsharri leaders. Furthermore, the chief of a military body recently disclosed information about an attempt on his life that had been organized by Ja'ja.'

Lebanese Forces Patrol Attacked; 3 Casualties

NC201718 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 20 Dec 87

[Statement issued by the Lebanese Forces civilian police on 20 December]

[Text] As a Lebanese Forces civilian police patrol was performing its duty on the Juniyah-Al-Ma'amiltayn Highway at dawn today, an armed group opened fire at it, forcing the patrol to return the fire. As a result, Albert Kayruz was killed and two civilian police members were wounded.

Once the news of the incident spread, some members of the Kayruz family ran out into the street in the Al-Judaydah area and started shooting indiscriminately. This prompted the Lebanese Forces military police to intervene to control the situation and maintain security.

The Lebanese Forces emphasize that the incident has been settled. They call on all citizens not to listen to rumors. They also herewith warn all those who contemplate harming the security of the citizens and the free areas.

Syrians Reinforce Positions; Arrests in North

NC190728 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 19 Dec 87

[Text] According to security reports received from the north last night, the Syrian forces have reinforced their positions along the coastal line and have placed their tanks in combat position in Kafr 'Ubayda. Furthermore, the Syrian forces brought in additional special units personnel to the north and withdrew a battalion of these units from the Hamat Airport. It has also been reported that Syrian soldiers have vacated their positions in certain buildings which were targets of recent attacks.

Meanwhile, Syrian forces have arrested two Palestinians and three members of the Islamic Unification Movement over the past 24 hours.

AFP cites a source close to the Syrian command in Tripoli as saying that the Syrian forces continue to detain 19 Christian citizens from the north as part of a wide-scale arrest campaign. The source pointed out that this wave of arrests involved some 100 citizens, all of whom were later freed except for 14 who had been taken to the Al-Mazzah prison in Damascus.

The attacks on the Syrians in the north have not ceased. The 9 February Organization has claimed responsibility for attacking a Syrian center in the Abu Samrah quarter with rockets and machineguns, as well as another center in 'Abba.

Liberation Battalion Claims Attacks on Syrians

Rocket Attack in Beirut

NC191815 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 19 Dec 87

[Text] As suppression and resistance constitute an equation liable to expand, both in the north and in West Beirut the Syrians are reaping what they have sown. In the latest wave of field operations to confront the Syrian occupation in West Beirut, the Liberation Battalion, in a recent communication to our radio, has claimed another operation. A rocket shell was fired at the Concord building, which houses a Syrian occupation forces center, hitting the second floor.

The Liberation Battalion recalled that it had killed a Syrian occupation forces soldier in the same area last Friday. The battalion declared that the war against the occupation forces will continue until they are driven out of West Beirut and other occupied areas of Lebanon.

Rocket, Shelling in Tripoli

NC192101 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 2045 GMT 19 Dec 87

[Text] In a telephone call to Radio Free Lebanon a short time ago, the Liberation Battalion claimed responsibility for firing a rocket and bursts of machinegun fire at a Syrian occupation forces position in Tripoli at 2200 tonight. Immediately afterward, the Syrian forces carried out raids, searches, and arrests in the area.

Explosion Injures 10 Syrians

NC201359 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1345 GMT 20 Dec 87

[Text] According to exclusive reports received by Radio Free Lebanon, an explosive device detonated at a post of the Syrian occupation forces in West Beirut yesterday which was being dismantled. As a result, 10 persons in the post were injured.

Syrian Soldier Wounded in Clash With PSP Unit

NC202132 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 2045 GMT 20 Dec 87

[Text] According to security reports tonight, members of the Syrian occupation army clashed with PSP elements in the Al-Shuf area today. The details are as follows: A Syrian military truck with 1st Lieutenant 'Isa Musa and some soldiers aboard was passing through Mdamit town in the Al-Shuf area when it came across a PSP convoy consisting of seven military vehicles. A dispute arose, which developed into a clash, and as a result Syrian soldier Nabban Qrayyu was wounded. The PSP elements detained the truck and its passengers, releasing them only after intensive urgent contacts.

Sa'adah Denounces Syrian Practices in North

NC191826 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 19 Dec 87

[Text] Activity resumed in the eastern areas at 1600 today, after a comprehensive day-long strike. The strike took place in response to an appeal from the Lebanese Front to protest Syrian practices in some parts of the north.

Phalangist Party leader George Sa'adah has described the random arrests, evictions, and demolition of houses as unacceptable to all Lebanese, adding that acts of demolition such as those which have taken place are absolutely rejected. He said that if interrogation is to be conducted, then individuals should not be blamed for other people's offenses. He cast doubt on the credibility of the charges which have been made and are still being made in an arbitrary fashion against the people of the north.

3 Abu Nidal Group Members Reported Executed

NC191258 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1240 GMT 19 Dec 87

[Text] The Voice of Lebanon correspondent has quoted a security source in Tripoli as saying that two members of the Fatah Movement—the Revolutionary Council in Tripli and a third member in Al-Barid camp were executed in the past 24 hours on the orders of council chairman Abu Nidal. The three were accused by a field court of collaborating with the Israeli intelligence services.

FRG Bundestag Member Arrives on Visit 19 Dec

Meets With President

NC191112 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1000 GMT 19 Dec 87

[Text] Hans Stercken, chairman of the FRG Bundestag Foreign Affairs Committee and IPU chairman, arrived in B'abda from Damascus today and met with Amin al-Jumayyil in the presence of FRG Ambassador (Wolfgang Guetelmann).

The German official will arrive at Mansur Palace in a short time and meet with Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni. He is scheduled to hold a news conference at Mansur Palace at 1300 today.

Makes Statement After Meeting

NC191349 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 19 Dec 87

[Text] Hans Stercken, chairman of the FRG Bundestag Foreign Relations Committee and IPU chairman, held a news conference at 1400 today. He then went to lunch at the Bristol Hotel at the invitation of Chamber of Deputies Speaker Husayn al-Husayni.

During his news conference, Stercken said that the IPU is a union for peace, expressing optimism for cooperation among the international parliaments and what could be accomplished in establishing peace in the world.

The German official had earlier visited President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil and Speaker Husayn al-Husayni. After his visit to B'abda Palace, the German official said that he believed that his task would naturally be difficult and complicated, but he emphasized that one should not retreat from these difficulties. He affirmed that Europeans profoundly share the destiny of the region, especially that of this particular country. He said: I am confident that we can achieve very constructive results, but we must work to realize them.

Rejects Cordes-Hamadah Trade

NC191845 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 19 Dec 87

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] At a press conference at Mansur Palace [Chamber of Deputies], Hans Stercken, chairman of the FRG Bundestag Foreign Affairs Committee, stated that at the next IPU meeting working teams will be appointed and instructed to concentrate their efforts on encouraging coordination among various countries.

He expressed the view that the preservation of security in any part of the world requires careful consideration of relations with all neighboring countries. He added that peace cannot be achieved unless the necessary cooperation is forthcoming.

He explained that his activities in Damascus were designed to encourage contacts among parliaments. He stressed that the Lebanese Parliament is a stabilizing factor in the homeland and should receive the support of other parliaments.

He said he believes that an international conference to discuss the Middle East issue might play a central role in persuading all parties concerned to abandon the use of force. He asserted that there can be no other solution than that of peaceful negotiations.

The FRG parliamentarian urged that no connection should be made between the continued detention of the FRG national Cordes and the imprisonment of the Hamadah brothers in the FRG. He said: It is not a question of barter. [passage omitted]

Ends Visit, Departs 21 Dec

NC210621 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 21 Dec 87

[Text] Hans Stercken, chairman of the FRG Bundestag Foreign Affairs Committee, has ended his visit to Lebanon. He left Beirut for Larnaca aboard a military helicopter at noon yesterday. In Larnaca the FRG official met with Dani Sham'un, leader of the National Liberal Party.

Al-Asad Receives Jordanian Prime Minister

JN181653 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 18 Dec 87

[Text] His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad received Jordan's Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i at 1330 today. Present at the meeting were Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam and Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi. Al-Rifa'i arrived in Damascus at noon today. Leading the welcoming party at the airport were Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi, Cabinet ministers, and the Jordanian ambassador in Damascus.

Al-Rifa'i Leaves Damascus

JN181857 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 18 Dec 87

[Text] Jordan's Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i left Damascus at 1800 today. Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi led the farewell party at the airport. Al-Rifa'i was also seen off by a number of the Cabinet ministers and the Jordanian ambassador in Damascus.

Reportage on Visit by Saudi Crown Prince

Arrives 20 Dec

JN201258 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 20 Dec 87

[Text] Damascus—His Highness 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, Saudi crown prince, first deputy prime minister, and commander of the National Guard, arrived in Damascus at 1230 today on a visit to Syria. Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam was at the head of those who welcomed him at Damascus International Airport. Also present to welcome him at the plane's ramp were Deputy Prime Ministers Mahmud Qaddur and Salim Yasin and Saudi Ambassador to Syria Ahmad al-Quhaymi.

After Prince 'Abdallah introduced the members of the delegation accompanying him, Khaddam and Prince 'Abdallah proceeded to the dais and the Saudi and Syrian national anthems were played. His Highness Crown Prince 'Abdallah then shook hands with the ministers and the Saudi Embassy staff in Damascus. Crown Prince 'Abdallah and Khaddam left in an official motorcade to Tishrin Palace where he will reside during his stay in Syria.

The Saudi crown prince is accompanied by an official delegation comprising Shaykh 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Tuwayjiri, deputy commander of the National Guard; Shaykh Nasir ibn Hamad al-Rajihi, head of the crown prince's office; and 'Abd al-Muhsin 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Tuwayjiri, adviser in the crown prince's office.

Confers With Khaddam

JN201855 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 20 Dec 87

[Excerpt] Damascus—At 1330 today a meeting was held between Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam and His Highness Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, Saudi Crown prince, first deputy prime minister, and National Guard Commander, at His Highness Prince 'Abdallah's place of residence. Shaykh 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Tuwayjiri, assistant deputy commander of the National Guard, attended the meeting. [passage omitted]

Received by Al-Asad

JN201945 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 20 Dec 87

[Text] At 1700 today President Hafiz al-Asad received His Highness Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, Saudi crown prince, as well as his accompanying delegation and the Saudi ambassador in Damascus. Talks dealt with the situation and developments in the region, the general Arab situation, and the state of affairs in the Gulf. They also dealt with the latest developments in the Arab-Israeli conflict and the state of affairs of inter-Arab relations.

Ends Visit, Leaves 21 Dec

JN211259 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 21 Dec 87

[Excerpt] His Highness Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, Saudi crown prince, first deputy prime minister, and chief of the National Guard, left Damascus today after a 2-day visit to Syria. Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam led those who saw the Saudi prince off at Damascus International Airport. [passage omitted]

Khaddam on Ties with Egypt, Other Issues

JN202054 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1920 GMT 20 Dec 87

[Text] Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam has answered questions by Saudi reporters who accompanied His Highness Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz during his visit to Damascus. The questions dealt with a number of current Arab issues. The following are the questions and the vice president's answers:

We hope this visit to Syria will be a contribution toward new steps within cooperation between the two sisterly countries and will help improve joint Arab action. [previous sentence unattributed]

Question: Do you think positive steps will be taken toward normalizing all inter-Arab relations?

The Vice President: All of us must work toward this aim. We must do our utmost to reach a sound Arab position enabling us to confront dangers that are overwhelming the Arab nation, especially the Israeli danger.

Question: Following the extraordinary summit in Amman, do you think this Arab reunion is equal to the threats besetting the Arab homeland?

The Vice President: The Amman summit was a good step. It should be followed by steps leading to improving the circumstances of joint Arab action and directing this action toward serving our fateful issues. All of us are witnessing threats against the Arab nation. All of us can see what is going on in the occupied territories against the Palestinian Arab people and our people in the Golan as well as the events in southern Lebanon which is under Israeli occupation and daily aggression. Therefore, the Arab nation should bypass all the obstacles preventing the realization of its serious, effective, and actual solidarity. We hope the current contacts will realize all of our aspirations.

Question: Are the proposed solutions and discussions revolving around a comprehensive solution for issues of concern to the Arab nation?

The Vice President: This is natural. The Arab nation is like the human body. If any organ of this body is harmed all the other organs must act to resist this harm.

Question: Has there been any progress in Syria's relations with Egypt?

The Vice President: You are aware of the historic relations between the people of Syria and Egypt. Syria and Egypt fought together against all the invaders who attacked the region not only over centuries but for thousands of years. The latest invasions which they faced were the crusaders and the Zionist invasion. No doubt the peace treaty with the Zionist enemy and the conditions which this treaty imposed on Egypt is limiting the movement of our people there. We hope our people in Egypt will be able to break their shackles so Egypt may restore its pan-Arab, historical role which we are all looking for.

Question: Do you not think Egypt has to a great extent dissociated itself from some of these shackles?

The Vice President: There is a treaty ratified by the Egyptian People's Assembly. A number of Egyptian officials reiterated that they adhere to it and that they will continue to do so. This treaty stipulates that commitment to its articles must be a top priority, especially Article 6. Moreover, Arab territories are occupied. The Palestinian Arab people are suffering from occupation and exile. Southern Lebanon is occupied and Israel is threatening the Arab nation. We are witnessing all of this. These threats and dangers cannot be faced while we see an [Israeli] Embassy in beloved Cairo, which withstood the crusaders and the Zionist invasions throughout its Arab history. Therefore, dissociation should lead to the situation which prevailed before the peace treaty.

Question: Is a visit to Damascus by Husni Mubarak planned for the near future?

The Vice President: This issue has not been discussed. As I have said, there is a barrier that prevents the restoration of ties between the two countries. This barrier is the Egyptian-Israeli treaty. We cannot, and no one can, ignore this barrier. Israel is our enemy and the Egyptian-Israeli treaty does not make Israel an enemy of Egypt. Israel is occupying our territory and is oppressing our masses in the occupied territory. Israel is threatening our existence and we cannot ignore these facts and say: We can jump over them.

Question: Press reports say that Dr [Usamah] al-Baz will visit Syria in the next few days.

The Vice President: This is not true.

Question: What about Syrian-Palestinian relations? The Arab and foreign news agencies report some kind of relaxation.

The Vice President: Have you ever seen an Arab state that has sacrificed and is sacrificing for the Palestinian Arab people as much as Syria? Since the beginning of the Palestine question, since the Balfour Declaration in 1917, Syria has been shouldering the burdens of the Palestine question, not only due to its geographic location, but due to its pan-Arab commitments. Syria might differ from several Arab states. We do not view the Palestine question as the responsibility of a neighbouring Arab state, but as our own cause. During Syria's contemporary history, since the end of the Ottoman rule, the Syrians have not distinguished between a cause of concern to our people and another cause of concern to another people in another Arab country, particularly in Palestine. Our people have continued to adhere to their pan-Arab commitments and to offer sacrifices with pride and without hesitation. This is because the matter is fateful to us.

Zionism as we know it wants Palestine, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, and Iraq. It also wants Saudi Arabia, Egypt, and Sudan. We must not ignore at all the objectives of the Zionist movement. This movement has continued to work for tens of years to achieve these objectives step by step. We must not cancel our minds or our view of the hostile nature of this movement. Here lies Syria's pan-Arab commitment to the Palestine question and the Palestinian Arab people.

Question: Your have spoken about the dangers posed to the Arab nation. What about the Iranian danger to fraternal Iraq?

The Vice President: Here we should view matters in a manner that would serve the Arab nation's interests and discuss this issue with a pan-Arab dimension and view. As far as we know, through our contacts with the Iranian leadership, we have never noticed any Iranian ambitions

on an inch of Arab territory. There is a conflict between fraternal Iraq and Iran. They are two neighboring countries. Iran is an Islamic state. There are differences between Iran and some Arab states. We beleive these differences can be and must be settled. Iran has no ambitions on the Arab homeland and the Arabs have no ambitions on Iran.

Iraq has no ambitions on Iranian territory and Iran has no ambitions on Arab territories. Consequently, the matter is different than with the Israeli enemy. The Israeli enemy has ambitons on our territory. Israel considers the place on which we are standing now part of its territory. It plans to make this place part of Israel. Therefore, we must not have the same views regarding differences and conflicts that might take place between any Arab state and any neighboring state. Israel is different from the other neighboring states in the region, which includes peoples who have existed for ages. We believe and still believe that the differences between any Arab state and any neighboring state, except Israel, can be settled and must be settled through dialogue and efforts to avoid entrenching the spirit of hostility. Entrenching hostility would involve the Arabs in wars that would take tens or hundreds of years.

Of course, we hope and look forward to the day when this raging conflict ends—a conflict which we believe is not in the interest of the Arab nation, Iran, Iraq, the Gulf, or anyone. This war has exhausted great efforts and inflicted heavy losses on the Arab nation, fraternal Iraq, and Iran. As is known, we have opposed this war from the very beginning. Consequently, our stand has not changed and it is a constant stand. We oppose this war. We did not want and we do not want this war. This war is not in anyone's interest. We hope this war will end with its pains and tragedies.

Question: Are you still playing a reconciliatory role in this issue?

The Vice President: Syria has exerted great efforts to prevent the spread of this war. Syria has exerted these efforts through its own intitiatives and sometimes at the request of our brothers. We are aware of the seriousness of spreading the war. This will not only involve new resources in this conflict, but will also weaken the Arab nation's will to confront the Zionist dangers.

Omani Foreign Ministry Official Arrives

JN192106 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 19 Dec 87

[Text] Yusuf ibn 'Alawi ibn 'Abdallah, Omani minister of state for foreign affairs, arrived in Damascus at 1915 today. He is leading a delegation on a visit to Syria.

Upon arrival at Damascus International Airport, he was received by Faruq al-Shar', foreign minister; Yusuf Shakkur, assistant foreign minister; Ahmad 'Isa, director of the Arab Homeland Department of the Foreign Ministry; 'Abd al-Karim al-Sabbagh, director of the Information Department of the Foreign Ministry; 'Abd al-Hasib al-Ustuwani, director of protocol at the Foreign Ministry; and Bashir al-Faraj, Omani ambassador in Jordan.

Yusuf ibn 'Alawi is accompanied by a delegation comprising His Highness Haytham ibn Tariq al-Sa'id , assistant foreign minister for political affairs; and Ahmad ibn Yusuf al-Harithi, head of the Arab Department of the Foreign Ministry.

Exchange of Envoys Approved

JN201445 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 20 Dec 87

[Text] At 1200 today President Hafiz al-Asad received Yusuf ibn 'Alawi, minister of state for foreign affairs in the Sultanate of Oman, who was accompanied by Haytham ibn Tariq al-Sa'id, Omani Foreign Ministry under secretary for political affairs. Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' attended the meeting.

Official talks between the Syrian side led by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and the Omani side led by Yusuf ibn 'Alawi, minister of state for foreign affairs, began this morning with a closed session. The two ministers discussed the latest developments in the Arabian Gulf region. They agreed on most issues under discussion.

The meeting was later joined on the Syrian side by Yusuf Shakkur, assistant foreign minister; Ahmad 'Isa, head of the Arab Homeland Department of the Foreign Ministry; 'Abd al-Karim al-Sabbagh, head of the Ministry's Information Department; and Walid al-Mu'allim, director of the Special Office [not further identified].

The meeting was joined on the Omani side by His Highness Haytham ibn Tariq al-Sa'id, Foreign Ministry under secretary for political affairs; Ahmad ibn Yusuf al-Harithi, head of the Arab Department of the Omani Foreign Ministry; Bashir al-Faraj, the Omani ambassdor to Jordan; and Muhammad ibn Yusuf, director of the foreign minister's office.

Talks centered on bilateral relations and ways to develop them in various domains. In this regard, the two sides agreed to exchange diplomatic representatives on the ambassadorial level. The talks also touched on current developments in the region. The two sides praised the heroic people's uprising in the occupied territory and their brave resistance to occupation. They denounced the Israeli authorities' practices of terrorism and repression against them.

On the Lebanese situation, Al-Shar' spoke about Syria's sacrifices to end the civil war in Lebanon and its continuous efforts to realize reconciliation among the Lebanese people.

For his part, the Omani minister voiced his country's interest in Syria's prominent, constructive role n Lebanon under President Hafiz al-Asad to ensure Lebanese unity and realize national reconciliation among the Lebanese people. The two sides demanded the unconditional withdrawal of Israeli forces from all of Lebanon.

Al-Shar' Receives Note From Greek Counterpart

JN192005 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 19 Dec 87

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' this morning received Konstandinos Yeoryiou, the secretary general of the Greek Foreign Ministry, and his accompanying delegation. The meeting was attended by Yusuf Shakkur, Foreign Ministry assistant; Hisham Kahhalah, director of the Western Europe Department of the Ministry, and the Greek charge d'affaires in Damascus.

Yeoryiou handed a written message from Greek Foreign Minister Karolos Papoulias to Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' dealing with relations between the two friendly countries. During the meeting, talks covered current developments in the region.

Bulgarian Education Minister Arrives on Visit

JN201605 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1510 GMT 20 Dec 87

[Text] Damascus, 20 Dec (SANA)—Ilcho Dimitrov, minister of national education in the People's Republic of Bulgaria, arrived here today leading an educational and scientific delegation on a 7-day visit to Syria.

In a statement, the Bulgarian minister said the aim of the visit is to follow up discussions with the Syrian Ministry of Higher Education in accordance with a bilateral agreement. He added another purpose of the visit is to learn about some aspects of Syria's advanced experiment in the field of education and higher education.

Finance Minister Receives Iranian Ambassador

JN201853 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1556 GMT 20 Dec 87

[Text] Damascus, 20 Dec (SANA)—Finance Minister Khalid al-Mahayini received the Iranian ambassador in Damascus here today. During the meeting, they reviewed bilateral cooperation and ways to facilitate citizens' visits and the exchange of tourists between the two countries.

U.S. Opposition to Peace Conference Viewed

JN181625 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 18 Dec 87

[Station commentary]

[Text] The United States is demanding the impossible when it asks the whole world to approve of its Middle East policy whenever the Arab-Israeli struggle is discussed in legitimate international institutions. The United States wants the world to declare its support for Zionist wrongs and to deny Arab rights exactly as it has been doing since the beginning of the Arab-Israeli struggle. The United States has also done the same thing at the United Nations during votes on resolutions condemning Israeli occupation of Arab territories and calling for isolating Israel, applying sanctions on it, and imposing an arms embargo against it.

When the world refuses to succumb to U.S. pressure or sell its conscience by voting against these resolutions in the highest world forum, the U.S. Administration does not hesitate to stand with Israel against the entire world and sell its conscience and forfeit its will to Israel. And while discussions are taking place on reasonable prospects for a solution to the Arab-Israeli struggle through an international conference of whose efficacy the world has now been convinced, the United States rushes to oppose such a formula and block such prospects. The United States justifies this behavior by claiming it is the only trustee in this matter. It also claims an absolute right to impose whatever solution it deems proper to promote its interests and those of Israel in complete disregard of the interests of the rest of the world.

All of the Arabs, including those whom Washington claims are its friends, do not matter. They do not count in the U.S. Administration's plans and strategic program in the Middle East unless they are capable of promoting the U.S.-Israeli solution which Washington is trying to propagate in the manner of Camp David. This is based on its Middle East policy which has become one of the U.S. articles of faith.

Is it not paradoxical that a power which is so biased in Israel's favor in the Arab-Israeli struggle should claim the right to be an arbiter in this conflict? How can this power declare itself to be a trustee in an issue to which it has become a party and in which it is the most complex factor? The U.S. Administration has reiterated its rejection of the international conference. It has also declared its opposition to the recent UN General Assembly resolutions in support of Arab rights to the Israeli-occupied territories.

Furthermore, this administration has shamelessly stood against the recent uprising of the Palestinian Arabs in Gaza and the West Bank against the occupation authorities. After all this the U.S. Administration has now aired its desire to resume its diplomatic moves in the Middle East under the slogan of reactivating the peace process and resuscitating the frozen Camp David agreements, now that the region is on the verge of possible conflagration. Such a U.S. desire is an immense challenge to international will as enunciated in recent UN resolutions. It also shows the United States holds the Arabs in contempt, tampers with their desires, and challenges their views.

Despite full U.S. support, the Camp David agreements could not dominate the region. This is because the Arab masses and establishments opposed them and the Arab people of Palestine and their armed groups confronted them. It is also due to the fact the whole world realized that these agreements contradicted the factors of just peace in the region as stipulated in international resolutions.

What will the United States attempt to market in the Middle Eastern countries through its new moves given that the U.S. pouch contains only the rotten U.S. goods, namely, the attempts to substitute direct negotiations for an international conference for peace in the Middle East under UN auspices? The facts of the Arab-Israeli struggle demonstrate that without full recognition of the Arab rights, the situations will remain explosive. Regardless of Washington's support for the Israeli policy of aggression and expansion and the U.S. practice of pouring fuel over the flames, the ultimate results will not serve the interests of those who expand the fires in the Middle East. This has been borne out by numerous experiments in various parts of the world over the past 4 decades.

U.S. 'Directly Responsible' for Israeli Acts

JN191615 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 19 Dec 87

[Station commentary]

[Text] Israel's bestial crimes and ruthless repression of women, children, the elderly, and young people in the Gaza Strip, the West Bank, and Jerusalem in the past few days can be matched only by the Nazi crimes in the territories occupied in World War II. Those who saw pictures of the bestial Israeli atrocities in the occupied territories on television would certainly come to the conclusion that by their aggression on defenseless people the Zionist racists had surpassed the German fascists who attacked Warsaw's ghetto more than 40 years ago. The Israeli rulers' aggression on the Arabs in the occupied territories has been more bestial and violent than the crimes committed by the Nazi SS and SA squads. This proves that the ethnic and religious racism of the new Zionist fascists is no less hostile and fanatical than that of the German fascists. This racism is even more reactionary, backward, and criminal because the fascist German policy is being repeated at the end of the 20th century.

The Israeli repression acts in the occupied territories have been so horrible that Israel's traditional sympathizers, including Britain and the FRG, were forced to excoriate Israel's behavior at the UN Security Council. All the countries which value humanity and law have condemned the criminal Israeli actions in the occupied territories except the U.S. Government. This government extended and is extending military aid to the Israeli rulers, including the weapons being used against the inhabitants of the occupied territories. It is also extending to them economic and financial aid which enables them to practice the policy of arms, militarization, aggression, and occupation, in addition to the diplomatic and political aid which enables them to defy the UN Charter and resolutions. What attracts attention is that this government has adopted a suspicious stand toward the West Bank and Gaza Strip incidents.

It only called on all—the aggressor and victim—to exercise self-restraint. This government was not satisfied with this totally biased stand toward the Israeli oppression. Richard Murphy, U.S. assistant secretary of state, told the Congress that the United States is looking forward to improving the living conditions of people in the occupied territories by means of a solution to be reached through direct negotiations.

One does not know how the living conditions of those robbed of their freedom, territory, and national rights and subjected to racial discrimination and oppression can be improved. The U.S. rulers avoid admitting the real crisis, the direct reasons for clashes and acts of violence, and those directly responsible for them. The crisis is not one of living conditions, but one of Israeli aggression, Israeli occupation, and Israeli rebellion against the international community, charters, and laws, as well as an Israeli disavowal of the rights of an entire people. This fact cannot be concealed under the pretense of calling for self-restraint and improvement of the living conditions of people in the occupied territories.

The United States is directly responsible for the Israeli rulers' actions and for maintaining a complicated, exacerbating, and volatile Middle East crisis that threatens peace, security, and stability not only in the region but also in other parts of the world outside this sensitive area. All the beautiful words the U.S. rulers may say will not conceal the fact it was the United States which financed the Israeli aggression against the Arabs and supplied the weapons with which Israel occupied the Arab territories. It is extending billions of dollars to Israel to pursue the policy of expansion in the Arab territories and the establishment of Jewish settlements on Arab lands. It is the United States which is defending the Israeli crimes which upset world public opinion.

The situation in the occupied Arab territories cannot be dealt with by using fire, iron, and blood to subdue the oppressed people's attempts to express their will or by talking about improving the living conditions of people in the occupied territories or by calling for direct negotiations as an expression of Washington's submission to the Israeli rulers' will. It can be dealt with by calling for Israel's withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories and by recognizing the Palestinian Arab people's national inalienable rights. It can also be dealt with by supporting the call for an international conference that can find a solution based on the UN Charter and resolutions and by calling for the punishment of war criminals and perpetrators of genocide and other crimes against mankind—the criminals ruling in Tel Aviv.

Paper Views Egypt's Stand on Israeli Acts

JN190720 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 19 Dec 87

[Press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Facts of the Conflict and the Egyptian Regime's Deceptions," the newspaper AL-THAWRAH says: While the Egyptian regime is satisfied with expressing regret over the repressive, terrorist Israeli practices in the occupied territory, 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, the [Egyptian] regime's defense minister, has raised his voice to stir a new storm of false media deception. Abu Ghazalah wanted to continue the Egyptian regime's plan to mislead the Arab people when he noted his regime's readiness to defend the Arab nation in a clear attempt to draw attention to an imaginary enemy. Thus, he is contributing to the U.S.-Israeli campaign to give a low priority to the Arab-Israeli conflict among Arab concerns.

It seems the Egyptian regime is continuing these attempts to mislead, ignoring basic facts produced by the treacherous Camp David accords. The first of these is that these accords have put the Egyptian regime's commitments to Israel above all others, witness the Egyptian regime's disregard of the Collective Arab Defense Pact. The second fact is that the Camp David accords have shackled the Egyptian regime with a number of military, political, and economic chains. All these have made the Egyptian regime subservient to U.S. imperialism and, through it, to Zionist quarters in Israel.

AL-THAWRAH continues: Thus, the Egyptian regime was satisfied with shy regret over the Israeli invasion of Lebanon and the occupation of Beirut in the summer of 1982. It was satisfied itself in the same manner over the Israeli aggression against Tunisia and all the continuous brutal aggressions against southern Lebanon, its villages, and camps. Today, the Egyptian regime is satisfied with expressing regret over the brutal Israeli repression against our kinfolk in the occupied territory, who are setting the ground ablaze beneath the occupation forces.

AL-THAWRAH says: The Egyptian regime's attempts to mislead Arab public opinion cannot succeed in the face of the facts underlined by the events which always prove that the major danger to the Arab nation is the Zionist danger. The Egyptian regime is trying to curb the size of this danger or is even forgetting it to hide its capitulatory stands and to hide its departure from the conflict with the Zionist enemy. The Egyptian regime is even contributing to the Zionist enemy schemes to liquidate the Palestinian issue, the crux of the conflict in the region.

AL-THAWRAH asks: Why has Abu Ghazalah not defended the Lebanese people, who are subjected to continuous Israeli aggression? If Abu Ghazalah is ready to defend the Arab countries, why has he ignored the Israeli aggression against the Palestinian people, who are subjected to a war of annihilation inside the occupied homeland? Is not Israel occupying Palestine, the Golan, southern Lebanon, and part of Sinai itself? Abu Ghazalah's statements are merely throwing dust in people's eyes. These statements cannot stand up to the facts of the U.S.-Israeli danger to the entire Arab nation.

Afghanistan

Pakistani Envoy Summoned to Foreign Ministry

LD191748 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 19 Dec 87

[Text] The Pakistani charge d'affaires in Kabul was summoned this afternoon, 19 December, to the Foreign Ministry and the following statement was read to him by the deputy director of the First Political Department:

The Pakistani Government claims that an Afghan force allegedly fired its artillery at the following: Teri Mengal region on 28 October; the Nawah region, located in the Mohmand tribal area, on 15 November; the Ghazi region, located in the Bajaur tribal area, on 18 November; the (?Kaitkot) region, located in the Bajaur tribal area, on 22 November; (?Shernan) area, located in the Khyber tribal area, on 1 Devember; the (?Asakhel) region, located 2 km from Landi Kotal on 5 December; the Ghazi region on 6 December; Pakistani militia posts in Landi Kotal on 7 December. Pakistan also claims that Afghan military aircraft dropped a number of bombs on the Ghazi region 18 November and on the Drosh region located in Chitral on 10 December.

Following a comprehensive investigation and assessment, the relevant authorities of the Republic of Afghanistan regard such claims made by the Pakistani Government as baseless and untrue and resolutely reject them. They ask the Pakistani authorities to end such baseless accusations which produce nothing but an aggravation of the situation on the border.

Najibullah Congratulates CSSR's Jakes

LD190506 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 18 Dec 87

[Text] Esteemed Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan and General Secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, has sent a congratulatory message to Prague, addressed to Milos Jakes, on the occasion of his election as general secretary of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia. The message praises the continuous work by the people of Socialist Czechoslovakia to further consolidate material and technical foundations of a developed society, under the leadership of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia. It also expresses confidence that the election of Milos Jakes, as party leader, will play a valuable role in further moving Czechoslovakia toward reaching higher objectives.

Likewise, it expresses confidence that relations between the people, parties, and governments of the two countries will be further strengthened in the interests of their people.

Najibullah Receives Bulgarian CP Delegation

LD201822 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1530 GMT 20 Dec 87

[Text] At the party Central Committee headquarters this morning esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan and general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee, received the delegation of the Bulgarian Communist Party Central Committee headed by (Ivanov Aleksev Kelishkov), candidate member of Bulgarian Communist Party and deputy head of the party's Organization Department.

Najibullah Receives Konduz Representatives

LD201755 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1530 GMT 20 Dec 87

[Text] Esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, received representatives of the people of Konduz province yesterday. During this meeting, esteemed Najibullah expressed thanks for the congratulations of the people of Konduz on the occasion of his election as president of Afghanistan. Also, during this meeting the representatives of Konduz discussed their request and proposals concerning their regional difficulties. Instructions were given to the relevant authorities by the president concerning the resolving of these problems.

Kawiani-led Delegation Returns From USSR

LD190511 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 18 Dec 87

[Text] Najimuddin Kawiani, PDPA Central Committee secretary, who headed a Central Committee delegation to Moscow to participate in the international conference of October Revolution and the contemporary world, returned to Kabul yesterday. At Kabul airport, he was welcomed by Haydar Mas'ud, PDPA Central Committee secretary, and deputy heads of the international relations departments of the party's Central Committee.

Energy Minister Receives Soviet Delegations

LD192314 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 19 Dec 87

[Text] Nazar Muhammad, PDPA Central Committee secretary, met separately today in his office with delegations from Kherson and Kharkov Oblasts, Ukraine-SSR. During these meetings talks were held on economic cooperation between these oblasts and Nimruz and Parvan provinces. According to another report, the Kherson Oblast delegation met today with Electrical Energy Minister Raz Muhammad Paktin as well as the deputy minister of public health. Talks were held on subjects related to direct cooperation between Kherson Oblast and Nimruz Province in the areas of electrical energy and public health.

351 Prisoners Released in Presidential Amnesty

LD192233 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 19 Dec 87

[Text] In accordance with the amnesty decree of the presidential office concerning the release of prisoners, another 351 prisoners were released from jail today. The BIA reports that at meetings held on this occasion in Nangarhar, Kunarha, and Herat Provinces three of the released prisoners, Abdul Maluk, Ezmaray and Sayyed Abdollah, said they would cooperate fully in implementing decisions and resolutions on peace of the Grand Assembly and take active part in the restoration of peace and security in their regions.

Jowzjan, Kabul Districts Declared Peace Zones

LD210925 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0424 GMT 21 Dec 87

[Text] Kabul, December 20, BAKHTAR—Eighty villages and centre of the Sar-e-Pol distric of Jowzjan Province were declared as peace zones recently. In a grand jirgah (assembly) held there on the occasion deputies were elected and introduced to the peace jirgah of Jowzjan Province. Similarly, the Chahar Asiab District of Kabul Province was declared as peace zone. The Chahar Asiab District and the Masa'i sub-district have 62 rpt 62 villages where 22,000 rpt 22,000 people live. Complete peace and security prevail in these areas.

Mujahidin Kill, Capture Soldiers in Qandahar

BK210820 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 21 Dec 87

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say a number of Soviet-Kabul troops have been killed or injured during an operation by the mujahidin in Panjwai area in the southwest of Qandahar early this month. Several others were captured. A tank and armored vehicle were also damaged by the mujahidin.

Yunis Khalis on Soviet Withdrawal Proposal

BK190550 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 7 Dec 87 p 6

[Bureau report]

[Text] Peshawar—Dec 6: The 7-party Alliance of Afghan Resistance Groups has predicted that the Soviets will try to divide Afghanistan if it does not succeed in establishing Communist government in the country. Its chairman, Mawlawi Muhammad Yunis Khalis, after his return recently from the United States and Saudi Arabia has said that the Soviet Government was not sincere about withdrawing its troops from Afghanistan. He was addressing a press conference yesterday at his office in University Town in Peshawar, which was heavily guarded by young Afghan mujahidin.

The old bearded mujahidin leader told newsmen that he wanted to explain the purpose of his visit to the United States. He said it was meant to inform the Americans about the change in the Afghan situation and to make new friends, as the Soviets were busy in planning to sabotage the mujahidins' struggle by new tactics.

He said that he met the American President Ronald Reagan and other people and informed them that the independent Afghan people will never permit any superpower to interfere in their affairs and will continue its jihad until all Soviet troops leave.

He said the United Nations sponsored efforts for a solution of the Afghan problem would not yield any positive results without the participation of mujahidin leaders and made it clear that he was not ready to allow Pakistan, Soviet Union, or the Kabul regime to decide about the future of Afghanistan.

He said that the Russians had degraded his land and insulted the Muslim people of Afghanistan. He asked, how then can the offer of reconciliation between them and the Afghan mujahidin be accepted?

He said that the reconciliation offer made by the Afghan Government was a hollow slogan and pointed out that it was not even accepted by Dr Najibullah's brother Saddiqullah, who was compelled to defect and join hands with the mujahidin.

Commenting on the Loya Jirgah held in Afghanistan in which the President and the new Constitution was approved, Mawlawi Khalis said that it was not acceptable to the majority of the people because of the presence of foreign troops and the nonrepresentational character of the Afghan Government.

He explained that it was the Pashtun's tradition to solve the problems through mutual understanding, but the grand jirgah convened by the Afghan Government proved to be nonrepresentational, when it was shelled and rocketed. [sentence as published]

He called for stronger unity among the seven groups of mujahidin so that they could fight under a single command to force the withdrawal of the Russians.

Briefs

TV Equipment Accord With USSR

A protocol was signed today in Kabul on the delivery of construction material and technical equipment for three television studios in the Afghan Republic, having a value of more than 7 million rubles credit from the Soviet Union. According to this protocol, material and equipment needed by these television studios will be delivered to the Afghan side in the coming year. The protocol was signed and documents were exchanged by Bashid Royagar, head of the state committee for radio and television

and Aleksandr Petrov, economic counsellor of the Soviet Embassy in Kabul. [Text] [Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1600 GMT 20 Dec 87 LD]

Cooperation With USSR Oblasts

In a direct cooperation effort between Parvan Province and Kharkov Oblast, Ukraine SSR; and Nimruz Province and Kherson Oblast, direct cooperation protocols between these provinces were signed today at the Ministry of Mines and Industry. Under these protocols, the Kharkov and Khersov oblasts will cooperate with Nimruz and Parvan provinces in the fields of agriculture, irrigation, industry, education and public health; and the further expansion of the Jabolosaraj cement factory is under consideration. The protocols were signed and documents exchanged by the governors of Parvan and Nimruz provinces and deputies of Kharkov and Kherson oblasts, while Sayyed Akram Payger, minister of state for direct cooperation, and Eshaq Kawa, minister of mines and industry, were present. [Text] [Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1530 GMT 20 Dec 87 LD]

New Airport in Takhar

Eighty-five percent of the construction work on an airport in Khowjaghar District in Takhar Province has been completed. It was used today for a test by a Bakhtar Afghan Airline Aircraft. In utilizing this airport many facilities will be brought for the transport of goods and passengers from Chah Ab, Yangi Qala, Rostaq, Archi, and Amam Saheb districts, as well as the capital of Taloqan and Dabqat subdistrict. BIA reports that Khowjaghar airport, costing 14 million afghanis, has been built by the Helmand construction company. The construction work on this airport, which had begun [words indistinct] is due to be completed in the near future and utilized by air transport. [Text] [Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1530 GMT 18 Dec 87 LD]

Bangladesh

Ershad Says Opposition Undermining Sovereignty

BK190150 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 0110 GMT 19 Dec 87

[Text] President Ershad has categorically said elections are the only constitutional means to change a government and he will not accept anything beyond the purview of the Constitution.

Addressing the extended meeting of the Jatiya Party in Dhaka yesterday, he said the people are now more united than ever to foil the conspiracy of certain political elements who have been working against the independence and sovereignty of the country. The people have also realized the fact that the actions of these political parties have not only increased their distress and miseries but also gone against the interest of the country. The president, who is the chairman of the Jatiya Party, said the party will continue to uphold its ideals of production-oriented politics. He urged the party leaders to make determined efforts against bombs and terrorism. He said we cannot compromise our faith in Bismillahir Rahmanir Rahim [I begin in the name of God, the most merciful and compassionate] which has been incorporated in the Constitution at the wishes of the people.

The president said emergency has been proclaimed to free the people from terrorism which was let loose by a handful of elements, while Parliament has been resolved to clear the way for fresh polls so that the people can give their mandate on certain national issues. He regretted that a political party which claimed its leadership in the war of independence and another party which claimed to have declared independence for the country are now out to hand over national sovereignty and enslave the nation. These political parties can never deliver goods to the people rather than undermining the national interest and compromising the hard-earned independence for their personal benefits.

The president said the 10 crore people of the country have come to realize who wants their betterment and who has been working against their interest, independence, and sovereignty of the country. He also asked the opposition parties to judge their popularity by taking part in the next elections.

Speaking at the meeting, Jatiya Party Secretary General and Deputy Prime Minister Shah Moazzam Hussain said there is no scope of changing the government without elections. He urged the opposition leaders to sit in discussions for finding ways and means of making the elections free and fair. The meeting was attended among others by Vice President Nural Islam and Prime Minister Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury.

'Ready' to Talk With Opposition

BK211624 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 21 Dec 87

[Text] President Ershad has said he is always ready for dialogue with the opposition as he firmly believes that a lot of good can be achieved through discussion. He was informally talking to senior journalists at a tea party hosted by Information Minister Anwar Zahid at his residence in Dhaka today. The president said he wants to resolve problems through discussions and will sit with the opposition as soon as the latter responds to his offer of talks. He said the Constitution provides for a multiparty political system where the question of holding elections under a nonparty government does not arise. Elections, however, can be held under a nonparty government on the condition that such elections are held on a nonparty basis.

Replying to a question, the president said it is not the responsibility of the government to persuade an unwilling opposition to participate in elections. There is no instance anywhere in the world where the government

has persuaded the opposition parties to take part in the polls. The president called upon the journalists to build up public opinion against the politics of anarchy and bombs.

Parties Want Fair Elections, Emergency Lifted

BK191640 Dhaka Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 19 Dec 87

[Text] The Jamiat-i Islami has again called for the lifting of emergency and restrictions imposed on the media. A resolution to this effect was adopted at the 3d day session of the party's central Majlis-i Shoora [advisory council] in Dhaka today. Acting Amir [chief] Abbas Ali Khan presided.

The Bangladesh Muslim League-Qamaruzzaman group has demanded a 460-member parliament elected on the basis of population. In a statement in the capital today, party chief Qamaruzzaman also called for announcing the date of free, fair, and non-party election as per the Constitution for the proposed parliament.

The Bangladesh United Nationalist Party Central Executive Committee meeting in Dhaka called for immediate release of all political detenues [detainees].

The Bangladesh National Awami Party-Mauzaffar has also demanded the release of party leaders and workers. The demand was made by the party president Professor Muzaffar Ahmed and General Secretary Pankaj Bhattacharya in a statement today.

The Communist Party of Bangladesh has reiterated its demand for a progressive democratic government to solve the present political impasse. At a meeting of the party central secretaries, demand was also made for holding elections under an independent caretaker government.

The Bangladesh Hindu Oikyo [United] Front today called for convening of all the political parties to ensure the participation of the opposition in the elections. The Front chairman, Manindranath Sarcar, in a statement, also urged the government to hold the elections within the 90 days of the dissolution of parliament on multi-party basis.

Other Parties on Fair Elections

BK200840 Dhaka Domestic Service in English
0110 GMT 20 Dec 87

[Text] The liaison committee of the three opposition alliances has demanded the resignation of the present government and holding election under an interim government. The deputy chief of Bangladesh Khilafat Andolon [opposition movement], Maulana Mufti Fazlul Haq Amini, called upon all concerned for an immediate solution of the present political crisis.

The chief of the Jatiya Janata Party, Sheikh Assad, has called for the lifting of emergency, release of all political detenues, and withdrawal of curfew immediately.

The president of the Jatiya Sramik [workers] Federation, Abul Bassar, and the general secretary, Nur Anwar, in a joint statement called for the lifting of emergency and the restrictions imposed on the media. They also demanded the release of political detainees.

India

Gandhi Affirms Equality of All States

BK20032 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 20 Dec 87

[Excerpt] The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, has said that all issues between the Center and the states should be sorted out through dialogue. Inaugurating the 2d day Golden Jubilee celebrations of the Uttar Pradesh legislative assembly in Lucknow last evening, he reafffirmed that all states were equal before the Center. He called upon the state governments to see that the benefits of the welfare schemes reach the weak sections. He also stressed the need for administrative and financial discipline to ensure that development projects are completed in time.

Mr Gandhi called for the strengthening of freedom and unity by coordinating efforts from the judiciary, the legislature, the executive, and the press. He urged the press to be objective and refrain from doing anything which may undermine the unity of the country. [passage omitted]

2 Injured in Clashes During Tripura Strike

BK200751 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0730 GMT 20 Dec 87

[Text] The 12-hour Tripura bundh [strike] paralyzed life in the state today as most of the shops and business establishments downed their shutters. Two persons were injured in an interparty clash at Jogendra Nagar near Agartala. Barring some rickshaws and two wheelers, no vehicles are seen on the road. The state roadways corporation also suspended its bus services. Strong police pickets have been posted at all vulnerable points.

Today's bundh is an extension of yesterday's 24-hour bundh called by the Congress-I in protest against the killing of the one of its party workers. The state government opposed the bundh, describing it as provocative.

GNLF Activists Arrested Under Preventive Act

BK201652 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 20 Dec 87

[Text] In West Bengal, 27 GNLF [Gurkha National Liberation Front] activists were arrested under the Anti-terrorist Act in Darjeeling in a crackdown by the police last night. The superintendent of police, Darjeeling, Mr

P.K. Sahay, said that so far 30 persons have been arrested under the Antiterrorist Act since its imposition in the three hill subdivisions last Thursday. The police today conducted raids on the houses of GNLF activists at Giddepahar area of Kurseong subdivision. They recovered arms and ammunition from these places.

Meanwhile, train services in the meter gauge section from Siliguri to Alipur Duar of the North-East Frontier Railway has been restored. Railway services on this section were disrupted yesterday when a live bomb was detected near (Shibok) railway station, 20 km from Siliguri.

Police Move Against 'Activists'

BK211640 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 21 Dec 87

[Text] In West Bengal, police are continuing raids on GNLF [Gurkha National Liberation Front] activists in the hill areas of Darjeeling. One of the commissioners of Kurseong Municipality was arrested today under the Antiterrorist Act. The district magistrate, Darjeeling, Mr D.P. Patra, told our Kurseong correspondent that police unearthed a bomb-making factory in Kalimpong last night. He said indefinite call by the hill employees association evoked a partial response.

Our correspondent reports that shops and markets were open and vehicles plied. The GNLF activists threw eight bombs in different parts of Kalimpong town last night and burned down a telegraph office. The director general of police, Mr Nirupam Som, reviewed the security arrangements at a meeting with senior officials in Darjeeling today.

Meanwhile, the state home secretary said in Calcutta that all the outposts on the Indo-Nepal border in Darjeeling District are being strengthened with the deployment of additional forces. He said this is being done to check infiltration across the border.

Police Shooting Kills 3 in Madhya Pradesh Town

BK200308 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 20 Dec 87

[Text] In Madhya Pradesh, three persons were killed when police opened fire to dispurse a violent mob in Raigarh town yesterday. The trouble started after a truck ran over two schoolboys, infuriating a crowd. A traffic police post in the area was set on fire, and the mob corralled a police station, stoning it heavily. The chief minister, Mr Motilal Vohra, has expressed shock over the death of the school children and has ordered [illegible]sary relief for the bereaved families. A judicial inquiry has been ordered into the police firing.

Soviet Researcher Reported Missing in Delhi

BK200527 Hong Kong AFP in English 0517 GMT 20 Dec 87

[Text] New Delhi, Dec 20 (AFP)—Police are searching for a Soviet research scholar who went missing in the Indian capital two days ago, a police spokesman said here Sunday. THE TIMES OF INDIA quoted police sources as saying they could not rule out the possibility that the man, identified only as "Babi A.V.", 25, may have defected.

The Soviet Embassy lodged a complaint with the police more than 12 hours after the man disappeared Friday on a shopping trip to Karol Bagh, a north-west Delhi market area, the police spokesman said. He was one of a 35-member group touring India since December 3, and which arrived in New Delhi on December 13.

Dozens of Soviet citizens are currently in India in addition to the normal quota of diplomats, embassy staff and cooperation workers as part of a vast cultural extravaganza called the Festival of the USSR.

Karol Bagh station house officer, R.P. Gautam, said all hospitals had been checked, the missing persons squad of the Delhi police was continuing its seacrh, a nation-wide alert was on and the Indian immigration department was notified.

A receptionist at the Delhi hotel where the man had been staying said the Soviet group had left India Saturday. Police said they were waiting for a picture of the missing scholar from the Soviet Embassy here to help their search. The embassy could not be contacted immediately for comment.

Nepalese Foreign Minister Denies Interference

BK181640 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 18 Dec 87

[Text] The Nepalese foreign minister, Mr Sailendra Kumar Upadhyaya, has said that the Darjeeling Hills problem is an internal matter of India. He told the Nepalese news agency RSS [RASHTRIYA SAMACHAR SAMITI] in Kathmandu today that Nepal has nothing to do with it.

Mr Upadhyaya was reacting to a statement purported to have been made by the West Bengal chief minister, Mr Jyoti Basu, about alleged Nepalese interference in the GNLF [Gurkha National Liberation Front] agitation and providing shelter and training facilities to its activists. Mr Upadhyaya said it is a matter of faith for his country to practice the fundamental principles of noninterference in the domestic affairs of sovereign states.

INDIAN EXPRESS Assails Gandhi on Tripura

BK201302 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English
4 Dec 87 p 6

[Editorial: "Hypocrisy, as Usual"]

[Text] Mr Rajiv Gandhi's recent attack on the Tripura Government for failing to curb the insurgency by the Tribal National Volunteers (TNV) has the familiar hypocritical ring which increasingly characterises his statements. Even if one concedes that the Prime Minister was right when he said in Agartala last Saturday that the State Government's intelligence network was completely inoperative, it would be childish to attribute the continuance of the insurgency to this alone. Even a highly alert and well-manned intelligence set-up would have been hard put to cope with a situation where the insurgents have their headquarters in the Chittagong Hills Tract district of Bangladesh to which they repair across a heavily forested and hilly border after striking in India. Things have been made further difficult for the tactical understanding arrived at between the TNV and the other insurgent groups of north-eastern India—the National-Socialist Council of Nagaland (NSCN), the People's Liberation Army (PLA) of Manipur and the United Liberation Front of Assam (ULFA).

One does not know whether the Prime Minister has the time to consider all this and also the simple fact that if the Tripura Government can be blamed for failure to cope with insurgency, so can be the Manipur Government on the same count. Not only does the NSCN operate with impunity in Ukhrul and the adjoining areas, the Chief Minister, Mr Rishang Keishing, has himself been under fire for his alleged extremist links. The public, therefore, will be pardoned for believing that he does not attract prime ministerial flak because he belongs to the Congress (I) and Mr Gandhi was playing politics, with an eye on the impending Assembly elections in Tripura, when he lambasted Chief Minister Nirpen Chakravorty's government in Agartala.

This all the more appears to be the case because the Tripura Government's earlier differences with the Centre on how to cope with the insurgency were sorted out in January this year. On its part, the State Government has virtually left nothing undone in curbing the TNV. It has banned the organisation under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act of 1967; parts of Tripura have been declared "disturbed areas" under Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act of 1958 which gives the security forces wide powers of arrest and entry.

Rewards have been declared for the capture of important TNV leaders. On the other hand, it is the State Government which has had to complain on occasions about the Centre's tardiness in providing contingents of the Assam Rifles which is experienced in dealing with insurgency. Mr Rajiv Gandhi obviously has no time for such complaints. Nor has he had anything to say about the State Congress (I)'s association with Tripura Upajati Samiti which has been frequently accused of having close links with the insurgents.

10,000 Megawatt Nuclear Power by Year 2000

BK191650 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 19 Dec 87

[Text] The Nuclear Power Corporation plans to raise the installed generation capacity in the country to 10,000 megawatt by the turn of the century. It also aims at increasing the share of the nuclear power from 3 percent of total production to 10 percent during this period. A spokesman of the corporation said in Kanpur that nuclear power units of varying capacity will be commissioned during the next 3 years with an initial capital investment of 10,000 crore rupees.

Iran

Musavi-Ardabili Gives Friday Prayers Sermons

First Sermon Stresses Unity

LD182352 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1515 GMT 18 Dec 87

[First Friday prayers sermon delivered by 'Abdolkarim Musavi-Ardabili, president of the Supreme Judicial Council, at Tehran University on 18 December—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. [passage omitted on Koranic verses and discourse on unity] An improvement in ethics is within our own means. As a person I must not be self-centered. As a person I must not be monopolistic. As a person I must not be aggressive. This comes from within myself, nobody else. [passage omitted]

Thank God, the troop dispatches and marches, the mobilization maneuvers, the people's participation in the issues of the war and the front, the donations, the rush to register for military training—all these are the highest examples of unity.

I have said that on the issue of war and on the issue of jihad and martyrdom our culture is now precisely Islamic. [chants of "God is great"] The Islamic culture has been implemented with regard to a number of social problems as well. However, we must make efforts, God willing, to implement it in other areas, too.

If it is decided that we must bring about unity, then we must hear less of these murmurings. Somebody says that the Hezbollahis are pushed aside. Somebody else says that there is no more room for the Hezbollahis, that they are gradually losing heart. Somebody else says what are they thinking about, and so forth. God willing, if this kind of murmuring is done away with in our society, and

if we adopt the same ways prescribed by the imam—and where there is a problem then it can be solved through a telephone call—then we will have no difficulty.

Let us make an effort to attract others rather than fend them off. There is a method that was previously used, but now less so, but it is still with us. Some people try to persecute others, trying to discover faults in other people's records, to get access to records to expose them, to defame others, and not to overlook minor faults. This is not in the spirit of the faith. If each day we pluck one group from the body of our society to throw away, then nothing will remain of this body.

The imam graciously says that only the present state of individuals must receive attention. Who can find anyone who may have lived all his life without committing a sin and who is just. These create difference and discord. Thank God, we have instruments to remove elements that create discord. We have the means to do this; we all agree on this.

When we say that all these institutions, organizations, universities, Feyziyyeh [Qom seminary], clerics, the deprived, and the meek must be united, then we can say that we can remove all the instruments creating discord in an Islamic, clear, and calculated manner. [passage omitted]

It is wrong to say that in the past there was such and such thing, now it is such and such, and in other places it was something else. I pray to God to bless this Islamic society with His greatness, His mercy, and His generosity. I pray to God to enable us to remove all the elements for discord, whether from within, or ideological, or social, and to do so in a complete way, in a way pleasing to God, and under the leadership of the imam of ummah. [passage omitted]

Second Sermon on Palestinians

LD182214 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1515 GMT 18 Dec 87

[Second Friday prayers sermon delivered by 'Abdolkarim Musavi-Ardabili, president of the Supreme Judicial Council, at Tehran University on 18 December—recorded]

[Excerpts] Among the events of the past week was the anniversary of the death of martyr Ayatollah Dr Mofatteh. [passage omitted on Moffateh's biography] May God preserve his family, sons, daughters, and relatives who are still following the path of their father, thanks to his proper manner of upbringing.

Now, the other issue is that of the Palestinian question—this glorious and at the same time tragic uprising by the Muslims of Palestine. Films of recent events remind us of Iran and Iranian Muslims in the days of marches and when we were being chased. Do not forget, though, that we were in harmony and that those who surged forward against us did not strike us. If one of them dealt blows, two would not, and if three of them fired bullets, they would fire in the air. They were forced to do this and sometimes they would refuse to carry out their orders. There were a few (?vicious) ones who would retaliate. However, many died, were wounded and tortured, or were imprisoned. However, the Palestinian people are at the mercy of Israel. Their existence, religion, and forefathers are not accepted there. Their Koran, their rights, and everything else are not accepted there. While the Israelis are scared like chickens and shooting at random, what do the Palestinians have? If anything, they may have a few stones and perhaps some petrol bombs—but I am not sure of that. It has been this way for a long time, but they are persevering with courage, selflessness, and sacrifice.

The Palestine issue is important for us in many respects. First, this has happened in an Islamic land, the great land of Islam, the source for Muslims and the primary focus among Muslims. This is the first house of transcendence for the prophet. They are killing Muslims inside the house of Muslims. This has happened in the Islamic world.

Second, those being killed are Muslims like us. Islamic teaching says that if a Muslim calls out for help and a person hears it and is able to help but refrains from helping, then that person is not a Muslim.

Third, they are fighting a war of justice against injustice and a battle of the oppressed against the oppressors. The Islamic aspect aside, one cannot ignore the very forceful humanitarian aspect of the issue.

Fourth, the enemy in Palestine is the same enemy which is attacking us in the Persian Gulf. This enemy is a common one, and this abject enemy has attacked in the Persian Gulf, assisted Iraq, begun fires in Lebanon, killed in Palestine, set up trials in Kuwait, issued death sentences in Tunisia, and applied pressure on the Muslims of Egypt.

The enemy is a common one. It is the United States and Zionism; it is the same. The enemy has brought up this issue. We must learn from the Palestinian ummah. One lesson to learn is that no nation, however weak and meek, can be chained in slavery forever. They have on many occasions thought that the Palestinian issue was finished. Assuming their troubles to be over, they took the masters of the people and made conciliatory deals with them while smiling to each other. All this business is over, they said. Their thugs did this while the children, youth, women, and young men took their lives in their hands, baring their chests against firearms.

The second point to note is that real power belongs to the people. Government without public support is a facade, a paper tiger. You can see that aroused nations, be it women, children, and young people without weapons or aid, can rattle the most forceful powers. Real power is

the power of the people. The very same barefoot, bareheaded, hungry nation once united can become such a great power that even the most powerful states in the world must yield to it. [chants]

The third point is that it is good that Israel has finally understood. These international circles, assemblies, and councils merely talk. For many years, the Palestinian nation's homeland and houses have been taken from them; they live in tents. They finally realized that they should arm themselves, raise shouts of "God is great," and attack with weapons to attain their rights and get revenge. Theirs is the way of God, the way of the Koran. Their slogans are God's.

O dear ones, brothers, masters, it is you who have shown this way to the Muslims. The world must recognize our rights. The Islamic Republic system says: I will plant wheat and barley; I will farm; I will manufacture arms; I will make missiles. Our children in the Guards Corps, the Reconstruction Jihad, the Armed Forces—God knows that they have worked miraculously as far as technical and scientific progress is concerned over the past few years. [chants] We could not have even dreamed of their progress, that one day these youths could accomplish all this.

The world is gradually beginning to understand that despite this difficulty, if the system lasts for another 5 years—which it will do, God willing—it will change. These so-called humanitarians do not feel sorry for Palestinian women and children who are burning and thrashing about, but they feel sorry for us. They say: Why is there so much killing? You must come and make peace. We say: We do not want you to feel sorry for us; just let us go our own way. Yet, they say: No; perhaps you want to get killed, but we will not allow it. They care more about us than we care for ourselves! If you care, do not let them kill women and children in the Gaza Strip. Do not let them attack these unarmed people there. Do not let them shoot these women and children who have gone out to get food; they will never return home. How can you be so cruel there, yet shed crocodile tears for us? We have found our way.

Here and now, I declare that the Iranian nation and the Islamic system wholeheartedly endorse the glorious uprising of the Muslim people of Palestine. [chants] We endorse their uprising; we honor their martyrs; we condemn their enemies. [chants]

We declare to the world's Muslims that it is the Islamic and humanitarian duty of all Muslims to stage marches and demonstrations, to shout slogans, to give arms, to send money, and to send blood. All Muslims must endorse this humanitarian uprising and the rights of Palestine. [chants]

We declare to world governments, particularly the governments of Islamic countries—notably Arab governments—to those who gathered in Amman, who smiled at Israel, who traded with Israel; to those whom this Palestinian uprising, these stones, clubs, and oaths are like a slap in the mouth; to those in whose meetings the cursed shadow of the United States prevailed; to those who carried out the United States' plans, we say that in order to ease their consciences, and in order to avoid more shame and disgrace, their own nations and the people of the world should end their deathly silence about the honorable uprising of the Palestinian people and raise their voices. [chants]

Peace and God's mercy be upon you.

U.S. Restricts Sale of Stingers to Bahrain

LD191724 Tehran IRNA in English 1645 GMT 19 Dec 87

[Text] London, Dec. 19, IRNA—The U.S. Congress is deeply worried about its weapons falling into the hands of Islamic groups and has imposed strict restrictions on the sale of Stinger missiles to Bahrain.

American fears about the missiles arose two months ago when the Islamic Republic was found to have acquired Stingers after it shot down a U.S. helicopter trying to attack Iranian patrol boats in the Persian Gulf.

According to THE WASHINGTON POST, another attempt was made by the U.S. Congress on Thursday to stop the Reagan administration selling the missiles to Bahrain and was only overturned after assurances were made about the deal.

The terms laid out that no more Stingers are to be sold to other states in the Persian Gulf and that plans to sell more to Oman are to be dropped.

The paper said that already the deal with Bahrain had been subjected to some of the "most stringent restrictions and conditions imposed on a U.S. arms deal" and comprised the same safeguards as those imposed on the sale of 400 Stingers to Saudi Arabia.

"The safeguards include separate storage depots for the missiles and the launchers and spot checks by U.S. officials to assure that all are accounted for," it said.

In addition, it added, Bahrain has to pledge to sell back the Stingers within 18 months of sale or sooner if other U.S. air defences can be found to replace them.

A State Department spokesman said that Bahrain had agreed to the conditions, but no date other than "as soon as possible" was mentioned.

The deal, worth dlrs 7 million, is one of the smallest U.S. arms sales this year and includes only 70 missiles and 14 launchers. Kuwait has also sought the same shoulder-held anti-aircraft missiles, but has apparently been ruled out of getting any.

Protests Made to UN Over 'Electronic Warfare'

LD181743 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 18 Dec 87

[Text] Following the recent U.S. interference by way of abetting Iraq's acts of aerial aggression, the Iranian representative to the UN, in a formal note, declared Iran's strong objections to the UN secretary general.

The note says: As we have repeatedly informed you, interfering U.S. forces, who have come to the Persian Gulf under the pretext of maintaining the security of shipping, have created a new crisis in the region with their provocative and autonomous actions. Last week, the warmongering U.S. military forces resorted to undeclared electronic warfare against my country on a number of occasions. When the aircraft of the aggressor Iraqi regime were attacking, the U.S. forces went to their assistance by jamming the defensive radars on the Iranian borders. These actions show how a government that urges others to observe unconditionally Security Council Resolution 598 and Clause 5 disregards the resolution. The Islamic Republic of Iran considers this action of the United States clear interference in the imposed war, by assisting the crimes of the aggressor Iraqi regime, and strongly condemns it. It holds the U.S. Government and the aggressor rulers of Iraq responsible for any consequences.

We have repeatedly declared that the security of the Persian Gulf cannot be maintained unless foreign forces leave and the attacks of the Iraqi regime in the Persian Gulf cease. Therefore, we ask his excellency to inform all Security Council members of the contents of this note.

Commentary Views U.S. 'Interference'

LD191844 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1104 GMT 19 Dec 87

[Political commentary]

[Text] Following the recent interference by the U.S. forces aimed at facilitating the Iraq regime's attacks on merchant shipping, the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran at the United Nations has lodged a strong protest by way of a note addressed to the UN secretary general.

The note said: As you have been repeatedly informed, the U.S. interventionist forces, who have entered the Persian Gulf on the pretext of safeguarding shipping security, have created a new crisis in the region by resorting to provocative measures. During the past week, the warmongering U.S. military forces on several occasions resorted to undeclared electronic warfare against the Islamic Republic of Iran. At times, when the aircraft of the aggressive Iraqi regime mounts attacks, these forces rush to help them, and thus disrupt the functioning of the Islamic Republic's system of coastal defense. These activities are blatant examples of how a government, which itself calls on others to unquestioningly observe Security Council Resolution 598, repeatedly makes a mockery of that resolution and violates its Clause 5.

It is interesting to note that despite the Reagan administration's allegations of being neutral in the Iran-Iraq war and its claims that the objectives of the U.S. forces in the Persian Gulf were to guarantee the continued flow of oil to foreign countries, some time ago Reagan's military adviser, in an interview in Italy, said: The presence of foreign fleets in the Persian Gulf has facilitated Iraqi attacks against Iran and also prevents Iran from attacking countries that support Iraq. He added: Iraq must attack Iranian ships in order to foil Iran's desire to expand the war. The same U.S. official concluded: The arrival of foreign naval forces in the Persian Gulf has not forced Iraq to end its attacks, but will automatically disrupt the mechanism of Iran's attacks.

Meanwhile, at the very same time, toward the end of Mehr of the current year [month ending 22 October], THE WASHINGTON POST reported that at present the U.S. ruling establishment was busy studying a plan to offer the support of the U.S. fleet to all the vessels asking for protection. Yet, while the U.S. Defense Department refrained from confirming or denying such plans, the White House declared that at present Washington did not intend to enlarge the theater of operations of its forces stationed in the Persian Gulf.

In any case, the performance and specific confessions of the U.S. authorities underline the reality that, despite considerable pressures from the opposition in the U.S. Congress, the Reagan administration has tried as much as possible to maximize its pressure on the Islamic Republic by increasing its support for the Iraqi regime. Of course, in this endeavor, the Reagan administration has been receiving covert and generous assistance from some of the Persian Gulf littoral states. The U.S. authorities have repeatedly expressed their contentment and happiness over the extent of cooperation and assistance from these governments.

Washington tries to use the presence of the U.S. forces in the Persian Gulf as an instrument to further assist Iraq in its confrontation with the Islamic Republic. It will also become an instrument to implement other conspiracies by the United States in its support for the Iraqi regime—in the event that conditions ripen and U.S. pressures in the Security Council come to fruition.

However, as past experience has shown, the Iranian nation is so determined that the continued implementation of conspiracies—such as the war of the cities, attacks on merchant shipping, attacks on economic centers, and similar pressures—cannot change Iraq's predestined fate.

As the Islamic Republic has previously stated, the mere presence of foreign forces in the Persian Gulf is in fact a tension-creating element—an element which can by no means be tolerated by the Muslim nations.

Meanwhile, other plans, such as replacing the present forces with UN forces, will be similarly rejected and condemned, because regional security must be safeguarded with the cooperation and assistance of the countries of the region without the intervention of foreign forces.

Meanwhile, the Reagan administration must realize that continuing such plots as jamming the radars of the Islamic Republic and covert or overt support to the Iraqi aggressors will amount to confrontation with a nation that, in order to attain its sacred goals, will not hesitate to respond to any aggressor.

Montazeri Receives Various Groups 18 Dec

LD191435 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 19 Dec 87

[Excerpts] On 18 December, Unity of Seminary and University Day, hundreds of lecturers and students of universities from all over the country, several of Grand Ayatollah Montazeri's representatives at universities, a group of officials in charge of training affairs in various cities, accompanied by a group of the families of the martyrs and other sections of the population, met with Grand Ayatollah Montazeri in Qom. We shall begin the news report section for this hour with the remarks made by the deputy leader at this meeting.

Referring to Unity of Seminary and University Day, marking the martyrdom of Dr Mofatteh, the deputy leader remarked: The link between the seminary and the university is natural and real, because both centers are places for learning a variety of sciences and humanities needed by people. Islam has given full attention to the sciences taught in universities. Moreover, the blessed prophet, may God's benedictions and blessings be upon him and his scion, encouraged Muslims to acquire and widen their knowledge and learning. When the prophet was quoted as saying: Seek knowledge, even if this may take you to China, this referred to the very same human sciences and knowledge which China was famed for at the time. [passage omitted]

Grand Ayatollah Montazeri then referred to the important role played by seminaries and universities in advancing knowledge and raising the level of awareness of society, and stressed: Our seminaries and universities should become centers of intellectual, scientific, and moral leadership for society and elaborate and determine Islamic and revolutionary values in society. Both centers should be strong and rich in knowledge and ethics so that they may train and produce effective and useful individuals for Islam and the revolution. [passage omitted]

Grand Ayatollah Montazeri then urged university and seminary teaching staff not to humiliate their students but to build character, so that they may turn out be literate and have character. In turn, he asked students of universities and seminaries to respect their teachers, and stressed: If a lecturer wants to teach in a university, then arrangements should be made to absorb him so that he may embark on his work with enthusiasm and interest. It should not be expected that all individuals, be they teachers or students, should necessarily be Hezbollahis. In any case, human beings have always been vulnerable to evil, to sin. There is a tradition which says that all human beings are wrongdoers and the best of wrongdoers are those who repent. [passage omitted] Thus, one should not indulge in hair-splitting practices with regard to the past experiences of individuals who are serving, for instance. Nor should lax behavior by individuals be discovered and exposed.

These things are not compatible with Islamic morality and the methods of the prophet of Islam and the innocent imams. Referring to the different intellectual approaches and interests of the people, Grand Ayatollah Montazeri said: All individuals are not the same, and we should not expect everyone to follow the same line, including our line. If a person believes in Islam and the order and revolution and the leadership, then he must be permitted to speak, to serve, and to work. You should note that the disciples of the messenger of Islam adopted different lines and the blessed prophet, may God's benedictions be upon him and his scion, valued each of them according to their worth, and put their talents to work. He never dismissed and shunned anyone who was among them. [passage omitted]

Grand Ayatollah Montazeri referred to the good services of the university jihads and Islamic societies of the universities,saying: The dear brothers of Islamic societies and also my own representatives in the universities should note that their work is very delicate and sensitive; their encounters and approaches should not make the people feel rejected or intimidated. All these brothers should be sources of imitation and refuge so that if any individuals blunder or develop certain intellectual or political doubts, they can come forward with their problems with confidence and without fear. Islamic societies and my own representataives must respond to these individuals with logic and reasoning, not with slogans and religious interpretations. You cannot make people discover their faith with slogans; you may scare them but you will not convince their hearts and spirits, and some day they will finally voice what is in their hearts.

Today there are different schools of thought in the world and people are receptive to every kind of idea. Efforts should be made to make people's minds and hearts accept a certain thought with faith. This important duty rests on the shoulders of the members of the Islamic societies and my representatives in universities who should try to guide and lead other people and not patronize them. [passage omitted]

Montazeri on Need for Clergymen at Fronts

NC200843 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0330 GMT 20 Dec 87

[Text] Following the plan to address the propaganda needs of the war fronts compiled by the headquarters for the dispatch of missionaries to the fronts, Grand Ayatollah Montazeri delivered a lecture yesterday morning to a number of theological students, clergymen, and scholars of the Qom Theological Seminary on topics not related to religious jurisprudence. At the conclusion of his lecture, Montazeri spoke to those assembled on the importance of propaganda and on the need to fill the propaganda needs of the fronts.

He stated: Although it is important to receive an education, propaganda and guidance—particularly at the fronts, where usually large groups of interested and committed people are present—also are significant. Basically, the main mission of scholars is propaganda and guidance. This need exists on the fronts today. It is everyone's duty to fill this need.

The deputy leader also pointed to the fact that propaganda should not be carried out by young clergymen only. He said: Now that the headquarters for the dispatch of missionaries is drawing up programs, scholars and theologians from the Qom Theological Seminary and from other seminaries should, in coordination with the other brothers, go to the fronts for a limited period as designated by the headquarters in order to meet the needs of the fronts.

Soviet Envoy Briefs Larijani on Summit Issues

LD192151 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
2030 GMT 19 Dec 87

[Text] Mr Yuriy Konstantinovich Alekseyev, the Soviet leader's special envoy, met with Mr Larijani, Foreign Ministry international and economic affairs under secretary, this afternoon.

During the meeting, Mr Alekseyev briefed him on the recent meeting between the Soviet and U.S. leaders, as well as disarmament and regional issues. He also described the latest developments at the Security Council and the views of his country's leadership on them. He criticized the U.S. method of dealing with the secretary general.

While welcoming any reduction in arms and the removal of nuclear weapons, Mr Larijani said: Despite the U.S. insistence on implementing the secretary general's proposal, that country is still trying to create an atmosphere against us through propaganda. The U.S. aim is to take revenge on the Iranian Islamic revolution.

He added: We oppose the United States acting as spokesman and standard bearer for the Security Council.

Mr Alekseyev also met with the Foreign Ministry political director-general for Europe and the United States on Saturday morning and reviewed the issues discussed during the recent U.S.-Soviet summit and Iranian-Soviet relations.

Meets With Velayati

LD201732 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1630 GMT 20 Dec 87

[Text] Our next report is about the meeting held between the Soviet leadership's special envoy and Mr Velayati.

Mr. Alekseyev, the Soviet leadership's special envoy, is visiting Tehran in order to brief officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran on the recent summit meeting between U.S. and Soviet leaders. He was received this morning by Mr Velayati, our country's minister of foreign affairs. In this meeting, Mr Alekseyev described the outcome of the discussions between U.S. and Soviet leaders on disarmament and regional issues and said: In the discussions with the United States, the Soviet leadership emphasized that the increase in the U.S. military presence in the region has led to an increase in tension. The special Soviet envoy, stressing the eagerness of the Soviet leadership to expand relations with Iran, also said: In our view, a great deal has already been done to strengthen bilateral relations. We are determined to take further steps in this direction.

Mr Velayati thanked the Soviet leadership for sending a special envoy to Iran and stated: We welcome any effort aimed at reducing lethal weapons and the arms race. The money which is spent on weapons could be used to better the conditions of the people of the world and to develop underdeveloped countries.

Referring to regional issues and U.S. attempts to create a tense climate and to engage in blackmail in connection with the debate on a second [UN] resolution, the foreign minister of our country emphasized: One of the special features of our policies ever since the victory of the Islamic Revolution has been to reject any kind of pressure and threats. Therefore, any one-sided position not only will have no effect, but will actually increase tension.

The foreign minister, while welcoming the expansion of relations between the two countries, emphasized the need for greater mutual efforts.

Musavi-Ardabili Inspects Prison System

NC191003 Tehran Television Service in Persian
1630 GMT 17 Dec 87

[Text] The ceremony marking the completion of the fifth military training course for State Prison Organization officials was held today at the Martyr Kachu'i complex in Karaj in the presence of Mr Musavi-Ardabili, chairman of the Supreme Judicial Council.

During the ceremony, the chairman of the Supreme Judicial Council spoke about the role of management in the country's judicial system and pointed to the importance of military training to preserve and safeguard the Islamic Revolution. He also lauded the prison officials' efforts toward instilling cultural attitudes in the prisoners. Mr Musavi-Ardabili then spoke to the prisoners and inspected various parts of the complex, including the prisoners' technical workshop. In an interview with our correspondent, the chairman of the Supreme Judicial Council discussed his inspection.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] Mr Musavi-Ardabili, you have inspected various parts of the Martyr Kachu'i complex, particularly the prisoners' workshop. What is your opinion on the activities of the prisoners, and how can their potential be used effectively

[Musavi-Ardabili] In the name of God, the almighty, the merciful. What has happened here is very good in all its various dimensions. First, this complex harbors an industry which, together with others of its kind, builds enough machinery to meet the country's needs. We are self-sufficient in this area at least and we do not need to export foreign exchange. Second, it serves the front; part of the fronts' needs are manufactured here. We think this is very important. Third, the people working here, except for a few [words indistinct], are all prisoners. It is very important that instead of these people being idle in prison and drawn farther down the road of corruption, they are working here and insuring their own and their families' financial needs up to a point. They can learn a job skill and become productive members of society after their release. On the basis of these points, I think that something very useful is being done here.

[Correspondent] Mr Musavi-Ardabili, in view of the fact that we are on the eve of the Islamic Revolution's anniversary, are there any plans for the release of prisoners who meet certain requirements?

[Musavi-Ardabili] There is a plan for pardon that will be announced by the mass media. As far as improving the prison and prisoner situations is concerned, we are now at a stage where we cannot wait for an anniversary to act. Those of our brothers who have undertaken these pains [of improving conditions] are struggling day and night to overcome the inherent problems, many of which, thank God, have been overcome. However, some still remain and they need time to be resolved.

[Correspondent] Thank you very much, Mr Musavi-Ardabili.

[Musavi-Ardabili] You are welcome. [end recording]

Islamic Propogation Head on African Muslims

LD201749 Tehran IRNA in English 1622 GMT 20 Dec 87

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 20, IRNA—Head of the Islamic Propagation Organization (IPO) Ayatollah Ahmad Jannati Sunday called on Iranian officials to pay special attention to problems of Africa's large Muslim population. Ayatollah Jannati, recently back from a 14-day visit to Ethiopia and Ghana described his trip 'fruitful'.

In a talk with IRNA, the Ayatollah who led a delegation to the two African countries said, that official of these countries were informed of the July-31 Mecca massacre masterminded by the U.S. and perpetrated by the Riyadh regime.

It was obvious from the questions reporters posed to the Iranian delegation, that they had not accepted the Saudi regime's propaganda, said the IPO head. The delegation explained the crime committed by the Saudi police in Allah's safe sanctuaries, he added.

Ayatollah Jannati called on Iranian political and cultural officials to show keen interst towards African countries. For instance, he suggested, direct flights can be established from Tehran to several African capitals.

The Islamic Republic has political representatives in 24 countries of the African Continent.

Border Patrols Increased To Control Drug Traffic

LD182327 Tehran IRNA in English 1659 GMT 18 Dec 87

[Text] Zahedan, Dec 18, IRNA—Islamic Revolution Committees (IRC) are to patrol 2,000 kms. of eastern borders and 1,000 kms. of desert areas, IRC Commander Hojjat ol-Eslam Serajeddin Musavi said here today.

In an interview after a two-day seminar here of the IRC commanders, Hojjat ol-Eslam Musavi said IRC surveillance over borders with Afghanistan and Pakistan will help curb drug trafficking and the inflow of narcotics to Iran.

On road construction in eastern border areas, the commander said IRC guards have so far asphalted 300 kms. of roads, dug canals and erected barbed wires on borders. He said 420 kms. of the eastern borders are being controlled by IRC.

The official added a college for Islamic Revolution Committeemen is to start operation with 120 students February 1988.

National Grid Faces Power Shortages

LD202217 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 20 Dec 87

[Text] The Energy Ministry has announced that as a result of some difficulties in power production, the national grid is facing shortages. Therefore, all compatriots are asked to avoid using electrical equipment with high power consumption rates, particularly in the early evening hours, and to turn off additional lights to try to save electricity.

Tehran Cits AFP on Attack on Norwegian Tanker

LD181748 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 18 Dec 87

[Text] According to an AFP report, independent shipping sources in the Persian Gulf announced that a Norwegian supertanker, by the name of [name indistinct], was attacked by a speedboat in the Strait of Hormuz this morning.

According to the same sources, there was a fire on board the 290,762 ton supertanker, but the blaze was brought under control.

Tehran Cites REUTER on Attack on Danish Ship

LD191226 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 19 Dec 87

[Text] According to REUTER, shipping sources in the region have stated that a Danish supertanker came under attack by speedboats this morning in the south of the Persian Gulf. According to this report, the 337,000 ton "Karama Maersk" supertanker's tank stores were full of oil at the time of the attack and the level of damage inflicted on the supertanker is not yet clear.

UK Frigate Declines To Aid Supertanker

LD191735 Tehran IRNA in English 1715 GMT 19 Dec 87

[Text] London, Dec. 19, IRNA—A British warship declined to help a supertanker laden with Saudi Arabian oil which came under fire in the Persian Gulf Saturday.

The Defence Ministry confirmed that a U.K. frigate was asked to help the 337,700-ton Danish-owned 'Karama Maersk' but said that its priority was to shepherd British-flagged vessels.

"After ascertaining there were no casualties on board, the British frigate continued to rendezvous with three British merchant ships," the spokeswoman told IRNA.

Shipping sources say that the fully-laden tanker was hit south of Abu Musa Island, in the southern Persian Gulf, but sustained only minor damage. U.S. helicopters were also understood to have been circling over the vessel.

The massive American fleet has frequently been reported to have stood back and watched the increasing attacks on tankers in the Persian Gulf, which have doubled since the U.S. started its provocative convoying operations in July.

The London DAILY EXPRESS Friday described the situation as "open contempt in the (Persian) Gulf for the failure of Western navies to halt the tanker war."

It quoted the U.S. destroyer Chandler again demonstrating the "importance of some 80 Western warships deployed" when it stood back Thursday as the Maldives registered 'Island Transporter' was raked with cannon fire under its very nose.

Saddam Husayn Laments 'Sluggishness' of Army

LD201724 Tehran IRNA in English 1630 GMT 20 Dec 87

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Prov., Dec. 20, IRNA—Iraqi ruler Saddam Husayn has lamented the poor military training of the Iraqi Armed Forces.

Addressing a gathering of Iraqi commanders at the Al-Bakr military academy Saturday, Saddam admitted the sluggishness of his lead-footed soldiers. For instance he disclosed, when an Iraqi corps is under attack by Iranian forces, other Iraqi forces are unable to render any help.

He blamed the lack of spirit in his Armed Forces on the training methods, which he said makes them suitable only for a particular type of warfare in a special area.

Due to the acute shortage of military personnel, Iraqi commanders should take measures to train conscripts for multipurpose fighting, cried Saddam adding, they should be trained to fight simultaneously on mountains, plains and marshlands.

The badly demoralized Iraqi Army has of late been further depleted by massive desertions, believed to number several thousands, and execution of deserters has become a common sight in all Iraqi cities.

SAIRI Chairman on 'New Phase' in Struggle

NC190712 Tehran Domestic service in Persian 0330 GMT 19 Dec 87

[Text] In an interview with the Central News Unit, Hojjat ol-Eslam Hakim, chairman of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iran [SAIRI], pointed to the favorable outcome of the 10-point message from the Supreme War Support Council and said: In order to fulfill the directive of the Supreme War Support Council and to inflict an effective blow on the regime ruling Iraq, the SAIRI officials must call up more than 100,000 Iraqis in order to begin a new phase of struggle by the Muslim Iraqi nation against the Zionist regime of Saddam.

He added: Since the Supreme War Support Council's directive was issued, four convoys of combatant Iraqi forces have been sent to the battlefronts against the Saddamists, and in the coming days more Iraqi brothers will depart for the fronts.

Referring to the tense situation within Iraq and the culmination of the wrathful struggles of the Iraqi mujahidin against the military-economic centers of the

regime ruling Iraq. Hojjat ol-Eslam Hakim said: The escalating operations by the Muslim Iraqi revolutionaries which have been organized in popular resistance cells have driven the rotten regime ruling Iraq into a corner, and the forces of the 9th Badr Army, the Seyyed al-Shohada Forces and the (?Qods brothers)—coordinated by SAIRI—have carried out impetuous operations deep inside Iraqi territory, inflicting deadly blows on the Zionist Iraqi regime.

In this interview Hojjat ol-Eslam Hakim also called on the Iraqi Muslims in Iraq and abroad to strive, in the best way possible at this sensitive juncture, to overthrow Saddam's regime and to (?facilitate) the fighters of Islam in scoring a victory.

Combat Operations Against Iraq Continue

Kurds Shell Irbil Garrison

LD191632 Tehran IRNA in English 1625 GMT 19 Dec 87

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 19, IRNA—Peshmergas of Iraq's Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) killed six Ba'thist officers and NCO's, and wounded many others during their shelling of 'Sadr-Meydan' garrison in Shaqlava [placename as received] of Irbil Province over the past few days.

Reporting the above today, Ramadan Headquarters of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) irregulars added that KDP forces also destroyed a tank, a military personnel carrier and a gun emplacement together with their crew.

Communique No 3,054

LD181719 Tehran IRNA in English 1635 GMT 18 Dec 87

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 18, IRNA—Iranian naval forces intercepted and searched 19 cargo ships and tankers in the Strait of Hormuz Thursday, but allowed them to sail on since no suspicious cargo turned up on board, the 3054th Joint Staff communique reported here today.

The communique said Iranian combatants targeted Iraqi positions and strongholds throughout war fronts with heavy artillery fire Thursday and Friday, killing and wounding at least 10 enemy soldiers in Hajj 'Umran Region alone. Several Iraqi engineering vehicles and a munitions depot were also set afire in Sumar region.

Two Iraqi patrol units attempted to infiltrate Iranian positions in Sumar operational theater Thursday night, but timely artillery fire of the Muslim combatants forced them to flee the area.

Iranian artillery fire silenced fire of the Iraqi tanks in Halaleh, Nahr 'Anbar and Eynkhosh inflicting substantial damange on them. Relocation activities of enemy's light and heavy vehicles were also halted in Chuman-Mostafa and Gerdmand regions.

Exchange of artillery fire continued heavily in Kushk and Majnun Islands Thursday night and Friday morning while major Iraqi activities were controlled by Iranian forces in the southern fronts, where an Iraqi infantry unit sufferred considerable casualties and losses, the communique concluded.

Blackout in Baghdad After Attack

LD191053 Tehran IRNA in English 1041 GMT 19 Dec 87

[Text] Tehran Dec 19, IRNA—Power lines and high pressure pylons on Kirkuk-Baghdad road were attacked by Muslim combatants in the past few days which caused massive black out in parts of the Iraqi capital, said a report by the Ramadan headquarters Saturday.

According to the headquarters which is the center for irregular warfare of the Ground Forces of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps, an inspection post in Abu Sydeh [name as received] in Diyalah Province was recently attacked by a group of Iraqi Muslim Mojahedin. The Mojahedin killed a number of forces stationed in the center, the report added.

Communique No 3,055

LD191545 Tehran IRNA in English 1513 GMT 19 Dec 87

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 19, IRNA—Iran's naval gunboats intercepted and inspected five cargo ships and oil tankers in the Strait of Hormuz Friday but allowed them to continue voyage after making certain they were not carrying cargo for Iraq, said a military communique here Saturday.

In its 3055th daily communique, the Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces said that Iranian Air Force successfully carried out reconnaissance flights over the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman Friday.

Exchange of artillery and mortar fire continued throughout the battlefields friday raging somewhat more heavily in Zayd and Bubiyan, southern sector, where Iraqi forces suffered several casualties and an enemy command outpost, a motor pool and several gun emplacements were destroyed.

A number of Iraqi forces were killed or wounded and at least 10 enemy emplacements of various weapons set ablaze in parts of the southern and western fronts in artillery duels with Iranian Gendarmerie forces Friday.

Iranian Muslim combatants suppressed three Iraqi patrol convoys attempting to infiltrate their positions in Sumar and Chegha-Hammam, western sector, Friday, inflicting heavy casualties on enemy patrols and forcing them to flee.

Heavy artillery fire of Iran's Muslim combatants checked Iraqi engineering operations in areas overlooking Mehran, Eynkhosh and Hoseyniyeh, western and southern fronts, and movement of enemy motorized colums in areas opposite Mehran, Naft-e Shah, Sumar and Zoybedah Friday, concluded the communique.

IRGC, Kurdish Operations in Iraq

LD201514 Tehran IRNA in English 1505 GMT 20 Dec 87

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 20, IRNA—An Iraqi motor pool and several power pylons deep inside northern Iraq were destroyed in a series of joint operations launched by the Ground Forces of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) and Iraqi Kurdish Peshmergas over the past few days.

The IRGC Central Headquarters reported here Sunday that personnel of the IRGC air-borne Brigade 66 and Peshmergas of Iraq's Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) ambushed a motor pool in the garrison of Sarsang [placename as received] town, in Dahuk Province a few days ago, killing or wounding a large number of Ba'thist soldiers and destroying 50 military vehicles.

In a separate ambush, the report said, commandoes of the IRGC 'Zafar' Brigade 75 in league with Kurdish Peshmergas destroyed several power pylons between Al-Sulaymaniyah and Baghdad last week, causing black-out in vast parts of the region.

Iraqi Battalion 'Destroyed'

LD201517 Tehran IRNA in English 1510 GMT 20 Dec 87

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 20, IRNA—Iranian Muslim combatants destroyed four Iraqi battalion by 50 to 80 percent during their blitz operations in Zobeydah region, southern fronts, Saturday night. All attacking forces returned safely to bases.

In the course of the operations Muslim combatants set afire considerable amount of Iraqi heavy and light weapons and killed or wounded hundreds of enemy troops, taking nine Iraqi soldiers captive.

An informed military source noting that the operations were aimed at destroying enemy units in the region said heavy casualties and losses were inflicted on the Iraqi forces.

The military source also dismissed Iraqi claims of destroying two Iranian brigades, saying that brigades are never assigned for such a raid. Iraqi claims are only aimed at lifting the sagging morale of its demoralized soldiers, he said.

"World public opinion is well aware of the chaotic situation in the Iraqi army's ranks." he said.

Communique No 3,056

LD201708 Tehran IRNA in English 1647 GMT 20 Dec 87

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 20, IRNA—At least 1,500 Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and nine others captured in a lightning raid by Iran's Muslim combatants on enemy positions over Heights 127, 151, 142 and 160 in Zobaydeh theater, southern sector Saturday night, said a military communique here Sunday.

The 3056th Joint Staff Communique said that vast parts of Iraqi fortifications were set ablaze and a large amount of enemy ammunition and other military equipment was destroyed in the Iranian blitz aimed at disarraying enemy troops.

Iran's Muslim forces broke through numerous booby-trapped obstacles and mine fields last night, attacking Iraqi positions and inflicting substantial losses in men and equipment on them.

The attacking combatants destroyed the 1st and 2nd battalions of Iraqi Brigade 703 of the 29th Division by 80 percent, the 3rd battalion of Brigade 703 by 50 percent and Brigade 28 of the 29th Division by 30 percent.

The Muslim forces returned safely to bases after successfully carrying out the operations.

Meanwhile in the Strait of Hormuz, Iran's Navy gunboats intercepted and searched 11 cargo ships and oil tankers Saturday but allowed them to continue voyage after making certain they were not carrying cargo for Iraq. Two of the ships underwent an inspection longer than usual.

The Islamic Republic's Air Force successfully carried out reconnaissance flights over the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman in line with international regulations, despite receiving a warning from a foreign warship.

Iranian artillery fire set ablaze several Iraqi tanks in Panjwin and Nahr 'Anbar, northwestern and southern sectors saturday, killing or wounding their crew members.

A group of Iraqi infantry and engineering units attempting to fortify their positions in (Sidakan) and Helaleh, western sector, Saturday sustained several casualties and were forced to flee by Iranian artillery fire.

An Iraqi motorized column moving around Mandali war theater, central sector, suffered substantial losses Saturday when hit by the artillery fire of the Muslim combatants.

In the southern fronts, a number of Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and over 10 enemy gun emplacements, three trucks and several mortar launchers were destroyed in artillery duels with Iranian combatants Saturday, concluded the communique.

Territory Liberated in Faqqeh Area

LD211500 Tehran IRNA in English 1452 GMT 21 Dec 87

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Prov., Dec. 21, IRNA—Another 30 square kms of Iranian territory on the southern borders, was liberated when Iran's Muslim combatants ambushed Iraqi positions on the eastern bank of Do'iradj River [as received], northeast of Faqqeh theater, early Monday.

All Iraqi troops based on the eastern bank of the river were either killed, wounded or captured by the attacking Muslim combatants who also destroyed or seized intact a large amount of enemy military equipment.

The 2nd battalion of Iraqi Brigade 86 of the 32nd Division was totally wiped out and the 1st and 3rd Battalions of the same brigade were destroyed by 60 percent in the victorious Iranian blitz.

Iran's Muslim forces are now stationed in north of Faqqeh war theater.

1,000 Iraqi Casualties

LD211516 Tehran IRNA in English 1507 GMT 21 Dec 87

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 21, IRNA—At least 1,000 Iraqi soldiers were either killed, wounded or drowned in the Do'iradj River [placename as received], northeast of Faqqeh, southern sector, when Iran's Mulsim combatants smashed five enemy counterattacks aimed at retaking the liberated areas on the eastern bank of the river Monday afternoon.

Another group of Iraqi soldiers was captured in the crushed counteroffensives, 15 of whom have so far been transferred behind the battlefields. The Muslim forces seized intact a good deal of Iraqi military equipment.

Pakistan

Daily on Indian Criticism of Nuclear Program

BK191444 Karachi DAWN in English 9 Dec 87 p 7

[Editorial: "Aid, Nuclear Non-Proliferation and India"]

[Text] The Indian Prime Minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, is reported to have conveyed his concern to President Reagan over the latest move by the US Senate Appropriation Committee to tackle the problem of nuclear non-proliferation in South Asia on a regional basis, rather than bilaterally which has been the practice so far. The Committee has approved a Bill which would allow the resumption of the aid to Pakistan without requiring Islamabad to place its nuclear facilities under international safeguards unless India does so too. This runs counter to the Indian stand which rules out acceptance of safeguards "unless a regimen of international safeguards is applied uniformly and without discrimination to all nuclear activities in all countries".

India also contends that while its nuclear pursuits are "peaceful", the Pakistani programme is "weapons-oriented". This is at best a self-serving argument and hardly convincing from an objective point of view. Even New Delhi admits that, beginning with its 1974 explosion of a nuclear device, it has now a dual capability to build bombs—by using either separated plutonium or enriched uranium. In such matters, it is the capability that counts. In the contemporary political and power realities of the world, safeguards on an international scale and uniformly applicable to all nations, as proposed by India, can at best be a distant dream and not a realisable goal in the foreseeable future. The beauty of this Utopian stance is that it leaves India free to pursue its nuclear ambition without incurring any moral or material liability, while retaining all the options to decide whom to blame for nuclear sins and when and to put pressure on aid-givers and others to punish such 'delinquents'. This ideally fits in with New Delhi's Pakistan-baiting strategy.

The Senate Committee has taken a realistic view that there can be no meaningful non-proliferation in South Asia without taking into consideration India's extensive and advanced nuclear programme. It has thus veered round to a position where aid to both India and Pakistan will continue under presidential waivers through a built-in device. The US President will certify that a second country in South Asia is producing weapons-grade uranium or separated plutonium in unsafeguarded facilities and that the failure of that country to cease production of such materials has provided the rationale for the continued production of such materials by the first country.

India complains that this even-handed treatment equates Islamabad with New Delhi. India perhaps was hoping for preferential treatment—a sort of special exemption for it from any nuclear accountability even

though it might be palpably discriminatory to Pakistan. India is also worried about another provision in the complex US legislation, which calls for six-monthly reports by the Administration to the Congress about the level of uranium enrichment and plutonium separation by any country in South Asia. These reports may determine, at a given time, the continuance or termination of aid to that country. When aid is terminated or suspended, the sale of sophisticated technology with possible military uses will also cease. It also entails US opposition to loans to that country by multinational banks (such as the World Bank, the IMF or the Asian Development Bank). At least theoretically, this puts at risk the projected sale of US supercomputers to India, which was recently agreed upon by the two countries.

The declared objective of the spirited campaign launched by the Indian Prime Minister during his recent US tour and, more recently, during his Washington stop-over on his way back from the Commonwealth conference in Vancouver was to secure the termination of aid to Pakistan. Understandably, India does not like the turn events have now taken. However, there is a way out—an honourable and rational one. It can still agree to take up the five proposals put forward by Pakistan as part of a regional approach to nuclear non-proliferation. These stress mutual inspection of each other's nuclear facilities and a formal renunciation of the acquisition or manufacture of nuclear weapons. If India and Pakistan can make their own nuclear peace, this issue can reasonably be de-linked from the interposition of the US in the matter through its aid legislation and congressional veto power

Poland To Cooperate in Power Projects

BK191658 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 19 Dec 87

[Text] Ways to promoting cooperation in the power sector between Pakistan and Poland were discussed at a meeting between the visiting Polish parliamentary delegation senior officials of WAPDA [Water and Power Development Authority] in Lahore today. The Polish ambassador to Pakistan who was present at the meeting expressed his country's readiness to join in implementing power generation projects in Pakistan, particularly those based on log charcoal. He said financial assistance for power generation projects in Pakistan is also under consideration of the Polish Government.

The members of the delegation also called on the Punjab governor, Makhdum Mohammad Sajjad Hussain Qureshi. The governor expressed Pakistan's desire to have cordial relations with all the countries irrespective of their political or economic structure. Later, the Polish parliamentary delegation visited the Punjab Assembly Chamber.

Sri Lanka

Jayewardene Addresses Party Meeting on Accord

BK191503 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 1340 GMT 19 Dec 87

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Dec 19 (LANKA PUWATH)—Sri Lankan President J R Jayewardene said today that Sri Lanka signed the peace accord with India to save the country. He said that the terrorists have been defeated and it is only a matter of time before they are eliminated. The president was addressing the 33rd convention of the United National Party (UNP) held at the Sugathadasa Stadium this morning. He observed that the beneficiaries of the peace accord apart from the UNP government were the people who respected non-violence and democracy.

President Jayewardene pledged to crush soon terrorism in the north, east and the south. He said that the Sri Lankan Army would have found it difficult to win the war with the terrorists because of continued support to the terrorists from south India and fear of large scale civilian casualties if an offensive was launched. Mr Jayewardene said that he had received intelligence reports saying that support for the terrorists was to include anti-aircraft weapons. If this happened the president said it would have been impossible to airlift food supplies to the troops in the north.

The president said that it was in these circumstances that he accepted Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's offer to help end the terrorism in the north and the east. He asked opponents of the accord what alternative there was to signing the peace accord.

The president said that the Indian Peace Keeping Force could win the war against the terrorists. He said that terrorism in the south will end before the end of another month. He held out an amnesty for those who have taken up arms if they renounce violence and sought a pardon. The president stressed that failure to do so would result in their elimination.

The president told the delegation that the bomb attack in Parliament has now been established as the work of the JVP [Janata Vimukthi Peramuna]. The police are in possession of all relevant information. All except one involved in the incident have been apprehended.

Explaining the 1971 insurgency, Mr Jayewardene said that now the JVP has launched a fight to achieve victory by killing UNP supporters and opponents.

President Jayewardene told the delegates that they would be able to say at next year's convention that the battle was won because of their leader. Sri Lankan Finance Minister Ronnie de Mel said that President

Jayewardene's name will be written in golden letters as the saviour of Sri Lanka for taking action to save the nation by signing the peace accord.

He said that the world community welcomed the accord and the 15 billion rupees was obtained as assistance for reconstruction and rehabilitation. A further 20 billion rupees is expected as assistance at next years aid consortium meeting. He pointed out that the country now only needed peace for development.

The Minister of Lands and Mahaweli Development Gamini Dissanayake said that President Jayewardene will be invited to be the chief guest at next year's Indian Independence Day celebrations. Mr Dissanayake said that a new course had to be chartered funding solutions to the problems of terrorism, unemployment and unrest at universities.

Home Affairs Minister K W Dewanayagam said that terrorism had imposed much hardship on the people of the Eastern Province. He added that there was no other way to restore peace in the country except through the peace accord.

The delegates also adopted a motion felicitating the president and the Indian prime minister for signing the Indo-Sri Lanka peace accord.

Decision Expected on Merging of Provinces

BK201609 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 20 Dec 87

[Text] The Sri Lankan Government will soon announce its decision on merging Northern and Eastern Provinces. Disclosing this to newsmen in Madras today, a spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry said India has already taken up this matter and Colombo has agreed to issue an order shortly.

The spokesman further disclosed that the Sri Lankan Government will soon enact a law to set up provincial councils and to start the electoral process for these councils. This will be a follow-up of the constitutional amendment and other legislation already passed by the Sri Lankan Parliament.

Regarding elections to the proposed provincial councils in northern Sri Lanka, the spokesman added that these will be conducted on the basis of the electoral roll of 1982.

India is in touch with the Sri Lankan Government for the return of refugees from India. The first batch will leave for Talaimanner in the next few days. Other batches will go regularly from next month onward. The Sri Lankan Government will make arrangements to receive them while India will provide free transport and adequate ration.

The spokesman said that the PKF [Peacekeeping force] will ensure reopening of educational institutions from the 5th of next month as scheduled. He also said women police from India will soon be inducted into Jaffna to help women in solving their problem. They will also accompany the PKF search parties.

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